

## Spanish minister holds talks in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana arrived in Cairo Sunday and discussed with Egyptian officials the issue of Palestinian evictions and its effect on the Middle East peace process. Mr. Solana, who flew in from Damascus, met with Egyptian Foreign Minister Amr Musa and Arab League Secretary-General Esmat Abdul Meguid at Cairo International Airport immediately after his arrival. Dr. Abdul Meguid left for France after the talks to discuss Arab issues with French Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. "The visit (by Solana) is to continue consultations and to discuss the effect of the deportee crisis on the peace process," Mr. Musa told reporters after the meeting. Mr. Solana said that "he supports the implementation of all U.N. Security Council resolutions, including those against Israel and Serbia. Mr. Solana is on a Middle East tour that has already taken him to Jordan and Syria. Israel's expulsion of more than 400 Palestinians was one of the main topics he discussed with officials during his trip. He has said that the expulsions are illegal and a bad mistake."

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## Prince Hassan returns home

AMMAN (Petra) — Their Royal Highnesses Crown Prince Hassan and Princess Sarvath returned home Sunday after visits to the United States, London and Germany. Their Majesties King Hussein and Queen Noor, Royal family members and senior officials received the Crown Prince and Princess Sarvath upon arrival.

## Qadhafi leaves Egypt after 1-week visit

CAIRO (AP) — Libyan leader Muammar Qadhafi Sunday ended a week of talks with President Hosni Mubarak on Arab and international issues and departed for Libya. Information Minister Safwat Al Sherif told reporters Mr. Mubarak and Colonel Qadhafi held a final session Sunday morning, along with ministers from both countries. Mr. Sherif said that the two leaders vowed to increase cooperation between their people in all fields.

## PLO official confirms threats

PARIS (AP) — The Palestine Liberation Organisation's representative in France confirmed receiving threats but denied in an interview published Sunday that he fled France to escape assassination by Hamas, a hardline group of Muslim fundamentalist Palestinians. Ibrahim Souss, the PLO's long-time representative to Paris, denied reports by the press and the French foreign ministry last Wednesday that he had left the country. In an interview with the weekly Le Journal du Dimanche, Mr. Souss was quoted as saying that he notified French authorities about 10 days ago "of my worries and of threats against me." The authorities "did everything to assure my security," Mr. Souss was quoted as saying. "On the other hand, I never accused Hamas. These are fairy tales." The conservative daily Le Figaro had cited confidential sources as saying that Mr. Souss was being hunted by a Hamas assassination team traveling on U.S. passports. Foreign ministry officials refused to confirm the report but said that Mr. Souss had left the country on an ordinary trip.

## French officials unhurt in attack in Somalia

DJIBOUTI (AP) — Three French officials visiting the breakaway northern part of Somalia reported Sunday that they escaped unharmed from an attack by gunmen at Burao, a major town. The incident took place during an official visit last week to Somalia, which declared independence from Somalia during the civil war and famine that have left 300,000 people dead since 1991. Somalia is not recognised by any foreign country. The officials, representing France's humanitarian action ministry and embassy in neighbouring Djibouti, said that they came under gunfire by a group of armed men on their way to the Burao airport. The gunmen, apparently bandits, stopped the vehicle but eventually allowed the French officials to leave for the airport, where they were flown by a Red Cross plane to Djibouti.

## Iran has 'few political prisoners'

NICOSIA (AP) — Iran's prosecutor-general, Abolfazl Musavi-Tabrizi, said Sunday his country had few political prisoners and that 70 per cent of all prisoners were jailed for drug crimes, Tehran Radio reported. The broadcast quoted Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi as saying at a news conference that "very few" detainees had been jailed for their links with "groupings or anti-revolutionary elements." In Iran's revolutionary parlance, that refers to members of the outlawed Iraq-based Iranian opposition group, Mujahadeen-e-Khalq, or anyone in opposition to Iran's Islamic government. The Mujahadeen said in a statement telefaxed to the Associated Press from Paris that Mr. Musavi-Tabrizi was trying to "evade the international repercussions of extensive street arrests by the regime." The statement said there had been a "dramatic increase" in the number of political prisoners in Iran.

# Iraq denies firing at U.S. planes, signals impatience

Aspin: Too early to say if Baghdad violated own truce

Combined agency dispatches

IRAQ DENIED Sunday that its anti-aircraft batteries fired a day earlier on U.S. warplanes and insisted its "ceasefire" remained in force.

U.S. Defence Secretary Les Aspin said after the third attack in Iraq by U.S. warplanes since President Bill Clinton took office that it was too early to say if Iraq had broken its goodwill ceasefire.

"I think it's a little soon to determine what's going on here since the Clinton administration took office. I think we're going to wait a couple of days to make sure," the new U.S. defence chief said in a television interview.

Mr. Aspin, who took over his post last week when Mr. Clinton took office, said, however, there was some indication Iraq was moving anti-aircraft missiles back into the southern "no-fly" zone but this had not been confirmed.

"There is some indication," Mr. Aspin said in an interview on the CBS "Face the Nation" programme, but he gave no details.

A U.S. navy jet bombed a radar site in southern Iraq on Saturday after Iraqi radar allegedly attempted to "lock on" to the jet while it was on patrol. U.S. military officials said they believed the plane had been fired on from the ground.

Iraq denied its air defences in the south opened fire on any U.S.

planes Saturday and said it remained committed to its ceasefire declaration.

A Foreign Ministry spokesman said Saturday's U.S. attack and two earlier attacks in the north had been unprovoked.

Mr. Aspin said the incident was not proof Iraq was not adhering to its own ceasefire, declared on the eve of Mr. Clinton's inauguration last Wednesday as a goodwill gesture.

"I mean there's some evidence the pilot who thought he was being fired on, and indeed fired, made the judgement that something was happening that threatened him and so he went after it," he said.

A spokesman for the U.S. Joint Chiefs of Staff said on Saturday: "We have made clear that our pilots are going to defend themselves when threatened."

U.S. officials say their planes retaliated after Iraqi defences locked radars onto or fired on U.S. planes policing the "no-fly" zones in northern and southern Iraq.

Asked if Iraq was teasing the United States and violating its own ceasefire, Mr. Aspin said: "Your interpretation may be correct but I think we need to wait and see a little bit."

The spokesman did not clarify which U.S. attack he was referring to, but said he was commenting on unspecified Pentagon

statements made Jan. 20, or Wednesday. There was a U.S. attack on northern targets the day before, Tuesday.

There was no immediate U.S. reaction to the claim.

The report quoted the political editor of the news agency as saying "We confronted these provocations and aggressive acts by controlling our nerves."

In an interview with the U.S. CNN television network, Information Minister Hamed Youssef Hummadi called for "pragmatic, businesslike discussion" with the United States.

He said the three recent U.S. attacks were "minor ones, and we are committed to the cease-fire," but if they continued, the two countries could be in for a "difficult course."

Nouri Al Marsoumi, a senior undersecretary at the Ministry of Culture and Information, writing in the Babel newspaper hinted that Iraq could not wait for ever for the U.S. to respond to its overtures.

"If we want to turn this opportunity to our advantage we have to view the ceasefire as one chapter in our whole struggle," he wrote.

"In the end, we have to choose the appropriate time to wage the war in the light of the international situation and the practical and tangible attitudes of the new administration."

Babel often floats ideas that never appear in the state-run newspapers.

In another development, a senior Iraqi military official asserted that the Jan. 17 American cruise missile strike on the downtown Al Rashid hotel was deliberate, not accidental as the Pentagon has said. Iraq said two civilians were killed.

Sunday's statement was the third denial of hostile action in the "no-fly" zones.

The Iraqi statement suggested the West was fabricating its reports but did not give a clue what the motive might be.

Iraqi newspapers Sunday invited President Clinton to settle issues with Iraq through dialogue. They made no mention of the latest clash.

In the latest incident Saturday night, three aircraft — one A-6 intruder and two FA-18 fighters — were flying a routine nighttime patrol over the southern air exclusion zone, Pentagon officials said.

According to the officials, the Iraqis fired flares, anti-aircraft artillery and directed search radar at the warplanes.

Defence department spokesman Michael Doble said the A-6 dropped a 450-kilogram laser-guided bomb in response. There was no immediate assessment of damage.

(Continued on page 5)



A Palestinian expellee who was among the 17 who were flown to Haifa Saturday is assisted by a Red Cross official and met by Israeli military police as he steps out of a British helicopter which flew him from South Lebanon (AFP photo)

## Expelled Palestinians say Israel must back down

MARI AL ZOHOUR, Lebanon (Agencies) — Palestinian expellees trapped at a freezing camp in South Lebanon said Sunday they were heartened by Israel allowing home 17 of their colleagues and it should now back down on the expulsion order.

The head of the 396 evictees said Israel had shown it was responsible for all of them.

But Abdul Aziz Al Rantisi said the remaining evictees were not pinning hopes for an end to their ordeal on the Israeli high court, which is expected to rule on the expulsions this week.

In the largest transfer of evictees since they were expelled on Dec. 17, four sick men and 13 of whom Israel said were expelled in error were evacuated to Haifa Saturday.

In a Red Cross operation, three British military helicopters flew the 17. The Israeli army took the sick to a hospital in its "security zone" in South Lebanon and detained the rest.

"By allowing the Red Cross to pass over its borders, Israel sent a clear message to the world that it had backed down from the expulsion decision," Dr. Rantisi said at the evictees' camp.

"By this evacuation Israel has declared it is responsible for the health, safety and well-being of all the expellees. This is a clear

reversal of the expulsion orders," Dr. Rantisi added.

"Israel must now announce this and take back all of the evictees in line with U.N. Security Council Resolution 799."

Dr. Rantisi, who Israel says was a leading member of the Islamic Resistance Movement Hamas in the Israeli-occupied Gaza Strip, said any high court decision would be directed by politics instead of justice.

Some believe Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin will use the high court to reverse the expulsion to block the threat of unprecedented U.N. sanctions against Israel.

Israel's ambassador to the United Nations said Sunday it did not expect sanctions to be taken soon over the expulsions and a final decision depended on U.S. President Bill Clinton (see separate story).

"It would be a big defeat for Rabin to allow us back but he could say it was only the high court's decision," said Moussa Amr, 26, whose evacuation was turned down Saturday.

Mr. Amr hobbles around the camp on crutches and worked in an ice cream factory in the West Bank. He says Israeli troops broke his right leg before expelling him.

"We all have to get out of here

soon. The food is steadily getting worse," he added. The group received bread and lentils smuggled on mules over mountains to the camp overnight.

The head of the Red Cross team that organised the evacuations Saturday said the four sick evictees would be taken to a hospital in Israel and not in the "security zone."

Some of the sick said they wanted to be evacuated as if they went to a hospital in Israel they would be nearer their homes in the occupied territories and could be visited by their families.

Israeli troops barred journalists from seeing the four sick men in a hospital in the town of Marjayoun, where they joined an evictee who was evacuated by U.N. helicopter two weeks ago.

Most of the 13 returned Saturday were bundled off to a desert detention camp in southern Israel. The rest, including two men to be released after questioning, were jailed.

In Damascus, Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Al Hariri had talks with Syrian Prime Minister Mahmoud Al Zoubi on Sunday.

The official Syrian news agency (SANA) said both stressed the "necessity of the implementation of the international legitimacy to return the (expelled) to their homes."

## 2 killed in S. Lebanon bomb blast

MARJAYOUN (AP) — Two guerrillas were killed when a roadside bomb they were planting exploded prematurely inside Israel's self-proclaimed "security zone" in South Lebanon, security officials said Sunday.

The officials said the bomb went off shortly after midnight (2200 GMT Saturday) in the village of Talloussa, about 20 kilometres southwest of Marjayoun.

The identities of the dead men were not immediately known, said the officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity.

They said a patrol of the Israeli-backed South Lebanon Army (SLA) militia found another roadside bomb in the same area Sunday morning. The SLA is headquartered in Marjayoun.

In Israel, an army spokeswoman, who cannot be identified according to regulations, gave a similar account of the incident.

She said the bomb exploded prematurely, killing the two guerrillas. According to Israeli army sources, the nature of the charge and its placing indicated the guerrillas likely were members of Hizbollah (Party of God).

Hizbollah had no immediate comment.

On Saturday, a bomb went off as an Israeli patrol drove on a road opposite a cluster of villages controlled by the Iranian-backed Hizbollah.

Two Israeli soldiers were killed and one wounded in the blast.

An Israeli spokeswoman said the explosion took place two kilometres from the village of Kfar Ronman at 3 p.m. (1300 GMT). Israeli military censors banned publication of the news for eight hours.

The soldiers were Israel's first casualties in South Lebanon this year.

Lebanese sources reported earlier that one Israeli soldier was killed and two were wounded when a bomb blasted an Israeli patrol in Lebanon.

Israel retaliated Saturday with a helicopter raid on suspected guerrilla strongholds in its first air assault on Lebanon this year.

The raid was followed by three hours of shelling during which two Lebanese Red Cross volunteers were wounded.

Israel carved out the 1,100-square-kilometre zone in South Lebanon in 1985.

## Turkish journalist killed by carbomb

ANKARA (AP) — A carbomb on Sunday killed a left-wing Turkish columnist known for his investigation of the 1981 assassination attempt on Pope Paul II as well as for his criticism of Islamic fundamentalism and Kurdish separatism. Ugur Mumcu, 50, was killed by the bomb when he started his car around 1:15 p.m. (1115 GMT) outside his apartment in a high-class residential district. Mr. Mumcu, a columnist for the Istanbul daily Cumhuriyet, was outspoken against Islamic fundamentalism and Kurdish separatism and was an expert on terrorism. The "Islamic Salvation" claimed responsibility. It was the first time such a group, described as fundamentalist, had been heard of. Mr. Mumcu, a vigorous defender of secularism in Turkey, had reported receiving death threats from extremist Islamic groups. While 99 per cent of Turkey's 57 million people are Muslim, the state is officially secular. Fundamentalist groups, clamouring for an Islamic state, have become more influential. Mr. Mumcu gained fame with his books on the assassination attempt against Pope John Paul II in Vatican City's St. Peter's Square in May.



IN SEARCH OF REFUGE: A Bosnian family crosses the River Drina on a raft with all their belongings, abandoning its home in Serb-held Bosnia territory to escape fighting (see story on page 8)

## House defers debate on civil service upon Cabinet request

By Ayman Al Safadi  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The Lower House of Parliament Sunday put off till next week what one deputy expected to be heated "exchange of views" between the House and the government on civil service employment.

The postponement came at the request of the government, which asked for more time to gather information from ministries and other public agencies on employees they have hired since 1990.

On Jan. 13, fifteen deputies asked that the House debate civil service appointments since the beginning of 1990 until the end of 1992 to check against alleged unfairness and favouritism in granting work opportunities to job seekers.

And in order to have a serious and objective debate of a perceived imbalance that could intensify the social threat of unemployment, the deputies asked the government for a list of the

names and graduation dates of all citizens hired by government agencies and public companies in the last three years.

Citing procedural irregularities, Deputy Prime Minister and Education Minister Thouqan Al Hindawi said the government was not infallible and might have made mistakes in awarding job opportunities.

However, he said, the internal regulations of the House provided proper channels for questioning the government on such an issue after Deputy Saleem Al Zoubi said the debate might lead to a vote of no-confidence in the government.

Mr. Hindawi said the deputies had no legal grounds for demanding the list since article 104 of the internal regulation, according to which the deputies made the request, allows only for an exchange of views between the government and the House on issues of public interest.

Deputy Hosni Shihab said the deputies were not aiming for a vote of no-confidence in the gov-

ernment and had the legal grounds for demanding the list.

The House then decided to debate the issue on its session Sunday without settling the debate or asking the government for the list. Mr. Zoubi, president of the House's Judiciary Committee, told the Jordan Times Sunday that he would insist that the government provide the list in addition to a similar one detailing names and specialties and dates of graduation of job applicants who have not been appointed when the issue is open for discussion next Sunday.

Expecting "imbalances and unfairness" in awarding job opportunities, Mr. Zoubi said ministers whose ministries are found to have allowed such imbalances must resign.

The debate of this issue will present a test to the deputies' performance in tackling one of many issues related to citizen's right to equal treatment, he said.

Also on Sunday, the House

(Continued on page 5)

## Israel hopes U.S. will offer continued shield against U.N. sanctions

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — Israel said Sunday it did not expect U.N. sanctions soon over its Palestinian expulsions but a final decision depended on new U.S. President Bill Clinton.

Arab and non-aligned states want the U.N. Security Council to impose its first ever sanctions on Israel for the more than 400 expulsions to Lebanon by Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin on Dec. 17.

Israel's U.N. Ambassador Gad Yaaqobi said he did not expect sanctions soon from the Security Council despite its Dec. 18 resolution demanding Israel take back the expellees caught in South Lebanon.

"We have reason to believe that at the council meeting, even if it takes place at the weekend, the most that will be discussed are deadlines for carrying out the Security Council resolution and no more," Mr. Yaaqobi told Israel Radio.

"All the rest depends on the decision of the U.S. president and even the heads of the U.S. delegation here (at the United Nations) don't know yet what will be his position if and when there will be a question of sanctions," he said.

Israel's ambassador to the U.S. said Saturday he was confident the new U.S. administration would prevent U.N. sanctions from being imposed on the Jewish state.

Zalman Shoval told Israel Radio he does not believe President Clinton's new government would want to be the first U.S. administration during whose term of office sanctions were imposed on Israel.

"I am convinced that the new administration, as with the outgoing one, wants to prevent this possibility," Mr. Shoval said.

Israel hopes the United States

## Syria urges Clinton to save peace process

DAMASCUS (Agencies) — Syria Sunday urged new U.S. President Bill Clinton to save Arab-Israeli peace talks from "stagnation and stalemate."

Foreign Minister Farouk Al Sharaa told Reuters he wanted the Clinton administration to back U.N. resolutions relating to the Middle East conflict.

"We hope the Clinton administration will do its best to save the peace talks from stagnation or stalemate in light of the deportation question and other obstacles the Israeli government is putting in the face of successful peace talks," Mr. Sharaa said after talks with Spanish Foreign Minister Javier Solana.

Syria, Jordan, Lebanon and Palestinian team began talks with Israel more than a year ago but they have made little progress. The Palestinians say they will attend no more rounds until Israel reverses its Dec. 17 expulsion of some 400 Palestinians.

Mr. Sharaa said President Hafez Al Assad had told Mr. Solana that Europe could help the cause of peace by ensuring Israel and the Arabs were treated equally.

"President Assad said Europe can play a more active role if it had the desire to be neutral and not biased to Israel against the Arabs if one standard is used and not a double standard in looking at U.N. resolutions," he said.

Mr. Shara's comments echoed those in Syria's ruling party newspaper Sunday, which urged new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher to visit the Middle East soon and said a just settlement was possible if the West put pressure on Israel.

Al Baath said in an editorial an early visit by Mr. Christopher

(Continued on page 5)





Two Somali children hold on to the barbed wire of Mogadishu's "green line" as they watch the movements of the allied forces (AFP photo)

## Relief officials seek American military protection in Somalia

MOGADISHU (AP) — Relief officials said they asked the U.S. military Saturday for more protection after a series of attacks on aid workers in the Somali capital.

Bandits attacked aid workers five times in broad daylight within an hour Friday in north Mogadishu, firing on the vehicles of relief organizations and leaving a Swedish doctor and three Somali aid workers injured. The vehicle in which the Swede was riding was riddled with eight bullets; gunmen looted another vehicle.

The attacks took place about 250 metres from the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), which had one of its vehicles shot at, said relief officials. Also targeted were vehicles of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Save the Children, and Swedrelief, a Swedish relief agency which works closely with UNICEF in Somalia.

"We're very concerned about the security situation," said Ian Macleod, a UNICEF spokesman. He said that security in north Mogadishu had not improved since U.S. and other international forces arrived in Somalia on Dec. 9 to restore law and order and rebuild the country from devastating famine and civil war that claimed 350,000 lives last year.

Their mission was to make Somalia safe enough so that relief workers could freely deliver food to the starving and care for the ill. Meanwhile, the opening round of preliminary talks among Somalia's warring factions to set an agenda for a national reconciliation conference to unite the lawless country broke off abruptly Friday in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, amid accusations of ceasefire

violations and the killing of civilians. U.N. spokesman Farouk Mawlawi said.

The recent attacks on relief workers could constrain UNICEF aid to 25 feeding centres and 20 medical clinics in the northern Mogadishu area and could curtail vaccination of children, Mr. Macleod said. UNICEF is the largest relief agency operating in north Mogadishu.

"UNICEF activities will continue in north Mogadishu but it will be increasingly difficult to undertake those if there is not more security provided," he said.

Army Lieutenant-Colonel Steve Ritter, a U.S. military spokesman, said he was unaware of the UNICEF request for more security. "We continue patrolling the area, sending as many as 30 patrols out everyday," he said. "It's a lot safer environment than when the Marines landed 45 days ago," Col. Ritter maintained. "I can say that unequivocally. There are a lot fewer guns on the street and incidents of gunfire."

The northern half of Mogadishu is controlled by forces loyal to Ali Mahdi Muhammad. The southern half is held by perhaps the country's most powerful figure, Mohammed Farrah Aidid. The two warlords have been fighting for two years but attended a public reconciliation last month under U.S. pressure. They were among representatives of 14 factions who signed a ceasefire and disarmament agreement Jan. 8 that called for a national reconciliation conference on Dec. 15.

An ad hoc committee had opened talks last Friday to determine the criteria for participation and the agenda of the conference. But the discussions were aborted

when one faction accused another of launching attacks on two villages in central Somalia shortly after the ceasefire was signed.

Col. Serge Labbe, commander of the Canadian joint forces in Somalia, said that a squadron of 80 Canadian troops had been sent to the village of Matuban and that the situation there was calm. Col. Labbe said there had been civilian casualties but did not have specific numbers.

Mr. Mawlawi said the United Nations was investigating the accusations. A second round of talks scheduled to be held in Mogadishu Tuesday was up in the air, he said.

In other developments: Military spokesman reported that bandits trying to extort money from refugees living in the National University of Somalia compound exchanged fire with U.S. military policemen Friday night. No casualties were reported.

A grenade was tossed into a compound in Kismayu, in southern Somalia. Col. Ritter said a Belgian soldier and two Somalis suffered minor injuries, while Belgian officials in Brussels said that five Belgian paratroopers and four Somali policemen were injured by the explosion near the police station.

Reuters adds: Two Somalis were killed in a shootout after gunmen ambushed Belgian troops on night patrol in Kismayu Sunday, a U.N. official said.

The Belgians, none of whom were injured, were fired upon from a house, spokesman Mawlawi said.

The troops surrounded and stormed the house, killing two Somalis and capturing four.

## Russian nationalist sends anti-U.S. volunteers to Iraq

MOSCOW (R) — A nationalist Russian politician saluted a unit of 10 paramilitary "volunteers" at Moscow airport Sunday, saying they were flying to Iraq to fight America and help forge a new Russian army.

Vladimir Zhirinovskiy, who preaches a gospel of Russian imperial revival, bade a solemn farewell to his men as they boarded an Aeroflot flight to the Middle East at Moscow's Sheremetyevo airport.

Bemused travellers looked on as the spectacle unfolded under the glare of television arc lights.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy's party seeks restoration of a Russian empire in the boundaries of 1917, including the three Baltic states and Finland. He won 10 per cent at 1991 presidential elections and campaigns with boundless energy for influence among the population and in the military.

"We must help Iraq," Mr. Zhirinovskiy, dressed in green military-style uniform, told re-

porters at the airport. "I am sending my fighters so they can renew the Russian army. Each new army needs its own war to start with. For us this is Iraq."

The men, mostly in their early 20s, wearing dark blue overalls, black boots, black scarves and purple berets, were hurried quickly through customs formalities to passport control. They were carrying no arms.

Mr. Zhirinovskiy sees Kremlin support of the United States-led United Nations sanctions campaign against Iraq as a betrayal of Russian interests. He views the United States as an enemy of Russia bent on humbling his country and imposing an alien democratic culture.

The Soviet Union had been Iraq's closest military ally for two decades supplying arms and military advisers to Baghdad. But the then Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev condemned Iraq's invasion of Kuwait in 1990 and backed United Nations sanctions.

## Algerian military court starts conspiracy trials

ALGIERS (R) — About 30 Muslim fundamentalists, most of them armed forces members, appeared before an Algerian military court Sunday facing charges punishable by death.

The trial, in the Saharan desert town of Ouargla, started behind closed doors to preserve military secrecy, the official news agency APS said.

Sitting in the red-brick tribunal in barracks just outside the town, the court rejected a demand by defence lawyer Abdul Razak Alaoui for the hearing to be held in public.

The independent Al Watan, usually well-informed on security matters, said officers were among the accused who had "deserted their barracks to join the (fundamentalist) underground" and others who "were plotting inside and maintaining links" with the armed Islamic movement.

State radio said on the eve of the trial that charges included conspiracy against state security and violation of military law. More than 20 of the accused were from the military, Algiers radio added.

The newspaper L'Opinion said Sunday two captains, 19 lieutenants and some civilians were among the accused.

Algeria's armed forces are seen as the state's main bulwark against fundamentalism. Last June government denied rumours of mass desertions in the forces, only a small number of soldiers had left and taken refuge in the Lakhdaria region.

Lakhdaria, a mountainous region 50 kilometres southeast of Algiers, has been the scene of several clashes. It is among seven areas, including the capital, now under night curfew in the battle against activists seeking an Islamic state.

Ouargla military court last May sentenced 13 men to death at a trial of 62 fundamentalists accused of attacking a border post near Tunisia and killing and mutilating three soldiers.

On Sunday, the newspaper Liberte said the supreme court had rejected their appeals. Only presidential mercy can now save them from the firing squad.

Two weeks ago, two men sentenced to death last May for a raid on a naval repair yard amid fundamentalist unrest, were executed.

They were the first such executions in a year of trials in which courts have passed capital punishment on a total of 48 men, including a Frenchman.

Among the 48 were 20 Muslim activists, mostly servicemen sentenced early this month for setting up an armed group and conspiring against state interests.

Islamic militants are blamed for killing more than 210 members of the security forces since a state of emergency was declared last February.

The decrees were issued after unrest erupted following the authorities' cancellation of a general election in which the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS) had taken a commanding lead.

## Oman opposes U.S. attacks on Iraq

DUBAI (R) — Oman opposes the use of force against Iraq, its foreign affairs chief was quoted as saying Sunday.

Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Yusuf Ben Alawi Ben Abdullah also said increased dependence on Washington could turn Gulf Arab states into U.S. protectorates.

It was the first official criticism from the Gulf of renewed military confrontation between the U.S.-led alliance and Iraq.

"This is not the correct path," he told the Loodon-based daily Al Hayat when asked about allied attacks in the last 10 days.

"Renewed military confrontation in the region is because of the inability of the international community to push the sides to use diplomacy...it indicates the weakness and failure of the U.N. to use diplomacy," he added.

Confrontation will complicate the issue and only complicate the issue.

"We hope that everybody will use diplomacy and political negotiations."

Oman is a member of the Gulf Cooperation Council alliance with Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Qatar.

Gulf diplomats said the views of independence-minded Oman may not be shared by other states that asked the United States and the West to send troops to the region after Iraq's 1990 invasion of Kuwait and joined the war that ended the occupation.

Warning Oman's neighbours against too much dependence on the United States, Mr. Ben Alawi said: "We should not look at the security of the Gulf as falling under the protection of the United States or any other country or else it will mean that we are again talking about protection like the British one that was to the Gulf until 1971."

Oman's Sultan Qaboos, who is also foreign minister, headed a council commission that proposed setting up a 10,000-strong Gulf rapid deployment force to act as a first line of defence and reduce the need for foreign help.

But its council partners spurned the idea at a 1991 summit.

Al Ahram assaults attacks

A leading Egyptian newspaper Saturday attacked the U.S.-led allied strikes on Iraq as out of all proportion, asking what Israel and Serbia should get if Iraq deserved rockets and bombs.

"Not only have the raids shown double standards but also a lack of proportionality...because they were decided on far away from the United Nations and the Security Council," the semi-official Al Ahram said in one of two editorials on Iraq.

"These raids (uphold) the law of force and not the force of law...if Iraq deserves rockets and bombs, we must ask what Israel and Serbia deserve," the paper added.

Resentment has been growing in the Arab and Muslim world that U.N. resolutions against Iraq have been rigorously enforced by Western powers who have so far failed to force Israel and the rump Yugoslav state to comply with other resolutions.

U.S. President Bill Clinton has continued the policy of his predecessor George Bush, launching two air strikes on Iraq in the past two days.

"The allied powers are now intent on mocking Saddam Hussein with limited strikes that keep him in power, making him the guinea-pig for all their experiments in the laboratory of international politics, testing out their law known as the new world order," the paper said in a second editorial.

## MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

### Gunmen kill two policemen in Cairo

CAIRO (AP) — Gunmen Sunday shot and killed two policemen standing guard at a railway station in Cairo and stole their automatic weapons, police said. A police official, who requested anonymity, said witnesses saw four people flee the scene after the shooting. The official said the identity of the assailants is still unknown. But the attack seems to be the work of Muslim extremists who frequently carry out armed ambushes against police. The militants want to overthrow Egypt's secular government and replace it with an Iran-like theocracy. They have traditionally attacked police and Christian Copts but started targeting tourists last year to embarrass the government and strip it of its main source of foreign currency. Police have launched a massive crackdown against the militants for the past two months and arrested hundreds. Acts of revenge by the radicals are expected. Sunday's attack raised to three the number of people killed in extremist-related violence this year. Last year, 80 people were killed and 133 were wounded.

### Explosion at Israeli plant kills one

TEL AVIV (AP) — A worker was killed Sunday in an explosion during an experiment at a government-owned armaments factory in a suburban area near Tel Aviv, a factory statement said. No other injuries were reported and damage was confined to a small room in the factory at Ramat Hasharon, the statement said. It said the explosion was apparently accidental but the cause was being investigated. Two explosions rocked two other military factories in populated areas last year, including one that killed two people, wounded 40 and scattered debris for kilometres along the crowded central coast of Israel. There were public demands at the time to move all armament factories to less populated areas.

### Pope will meet military leader in Sudan

KHARTOUM (AP) — Pope John Paul II will conduct a mass during his one-day visit to Sudan next month and meet with Sudanese military leader Omar Hassan Al Bashir, a newspaper said Sunday. The official English language New Horizons said the pontiff will lead the prayers at Khartoum's Green Square near the downtown area. He also will meet with other members of the Sudanese government and military leaders. The Pope will stop in Khartoum for nine hours Feb. 10 on his way home from an African tour intended to improve the lot of Christians. The trip, beginning Feb. 3, will include visits to Benin and Uganda.

### Man smashes window of U.N. car in Baghdad

BAGHDAD (R) — A man wielding an iron bar smashed the rear window of a senior United Nations official's car parked outside a Baghdad hotel, U.N. sources said Sunday. "We are worried because the car belongs to the U.N. coordinator in Iraq," an official told Reuters. The car was left by relief coordinator Dick Foran in the Al Hamra Hotel parking lot. A U.N. guard was sitting inside it when the incident took place Saturday night. "Suddenly I heard someone slashing and breaking down my back glass with an iron bar," the guard said. "The park was watched by hotel security but they did nothing." He saw two men running away, he added. It was the first such incident reported by the U.N. in Baghdad since U.N. weapons destruction teams returned to Iraq Thursday after being denied entry for two weeks. The official said a complaint had been lodged with Iraqi police and Mr. Foran would raise the matter with the Foreign Ministry. The tyres of Mr. Foran's car were slashed outside another hotel last week.

### Indyk to be top Mideast expert at White House

WASHINGTON (R) — Martin Indyk, a former researcher for a powerful pro-Israeli lobbying group, has been appointed top Middle East specialist on President Bill Clinton's National Security Council, his current organisation said Friday. The announcement came from the Washington Institute for Near East Policy, which Mr. Indyk has served as executive director since its founding in 1985. Mr. Indyk, 41, has helped build the institute into one of Washington's most influential shapers of thinking and policy on the Middle East. During the 1991 Gulf war, the institute faxed daily analyses on Iraq and related issues to news organisations and was heavily quoted in news stories. It has continued to provide analyses regularly on current topics, including Iraq and the Mideast peace process. Before moving to the institute, Mr. Indyk worked for the American Israel Public Affairs Committee, the most influential pro-Israeli lobbying group in Washington. But Arab groups apparently did not mount an opposition campaign to Mr. Indyk's appointment. Mideast experts in Washington said Mr. Indyk in recent years had made a strong effort to forge ties with the Arab community.

### 81 Iraqi Kurds brought to Sweden

STOCKHOLM (R) — Eighty-one Iraqis were brought ashore on the Swedish Baltic island of Gotland Saturday after travelling for three days in stormy weather in a small boat from the Latvian capital of Riga, coast guards said. It was the second unexpected influx of Iraqi Kurds in four days, after another Latvian vessel packed with 391 people landed on the Baltic island Wednesday. Coast guards intercepted the 30-metre boat Saturday after a godland inhabitant reported seeing it moored off the east coast port of Ljugarn. "It is unbelievable to think of people making this voyage in such weather in such a boat," coast guard commander Folke Gustafsson said. One man who had tried to swim to land was taken to hospital suffering from severe exposure, and a coast guard vessel escorted the refugee boat north to Sille, where the 391 Iraqi Kurds had landed Wednesday. The three-man crew of the second boat, described by coast guards as an old Soviet military craft, were detained pending possible charges of breaking Sweden's immigration laws. Refugees are entitled to seek asylum in Sweden, regardless of how they arrive, but it is an offence to transport people for profit and with the intention of avoiding immigration controls. The Swedish immigration board granted asylum to more than 80,000 people last year, many of them from former Yugoslavia, but Swedish politicians are demanding action to stem the growing numbers of refugees who cannot explain how they got to Sweden.

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VARIOUS CAMERAS ELECTRONIC FLASH-LIGHTS CAMERA HOLDERS MOBILE ILLUMINATIONS UNITS FILTERS FITTINGS BUSSES DIFFERENT PHOTOGRAPH ALBUMS PHOTOGRAPHERS BRIEF CASES

**AUDIO-VISUAL AIDS**

OVERHEAD DISPLAY SLIDES DISPLAY FILM STRIP PROJECTOR 16 MILLIMETER SLIDES DISPLAY 16 MILLIMETER SLIDES PROJECTOR SLIDE FRAME SLIDE CASES SLIDE VIEWERS TAPE RECORDER TAPE DECK TAPE ALL DEVICES

**PHOTOGRAPHIC MATERIAL**

PHOTOGRAPHIC PAPER PHOTOGRAPHIC FILMS FILMS & TAPE REPRODUCTION BLACK & WHITE

## Yemeni parties discuss merger

SANAA (R) — Yemen's two ruling parties are engaged in heated debates on a possible merger to help them win the first general elections since the North and South united in 1990.

The Yemeni Socialist Party (YSP), which ruled former Marxist South Yemen, however, failed Saturday night to endorse the merger idea in a statement after a central committee meeting.

The statement said all efforts should concentrate on holding the elections as scheduled April 27 and that it was willing to work together with all other parties to ensure that the polls go ahead.

Ali Saleh Al Baidh, Yemen's vice president and the head of the YSP, told the party's meeting contacts with the People's General Congress (PGC) of President Ali Abdullah Saleh would continue.

Political sources say YSP officials were divided on whether or not to merge with the PGC.

## JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 7111-99	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Phil Diction Compres
18:30	News in French
19:15	Musique Spectri
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	Steph Step
21:10	Shack Home
21:30	News in English
22:20	News in Vietnamese
PRAYER TIMES	
05:00	Fajr
06:20	Dhuhr (Dhahar) Dhaka
11:40	Dhuhr
14:40	Asr
17:00	Maghrib
18:20	Isha
CHURCHES	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Sweifch, Tel. 810740	
Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 612745	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 625904	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 617440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terzastia Church Tel. 622360	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 652026, Tel. 626543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 711331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 715261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 717551	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685526	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 611795	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-day Saints Tel. 623624, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be fair and winds will be westerly moderate. In Agaba, winds will be northerly moderate.	
Min./Max. temp.	
Amman	3 / 13
Agaba	7 / 20
Deserts	1 / 15
Jordan Valley	6 / 18
Yesterday's high temperature: Amman 12, Agaba 19 Humidity readings: Amman 61 per cent, Agaba 43 per cent.	

### USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS

NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Mohammad A. Ajam	894184
Dr. Mohammad Inan	612232
Dr. Fakhri Abu Tayeh	895800
Dr. Mohammad Manaa	741444
Firas pharmacy	661912
Fondons pharmacy	778336
Al Asma pharmacy	637053
Naiourah pharmacy	625672
Al Salam pharmacy	636720
Shmeisat pharmacy	644945
Shmeisat pharmacy	637660
Naiourah pharmacy	625672
Najih pharmacy	847632
DRIBD:	
Dr. Maan Baqawi	(-)
Alquds pharmacy	(-)
ZARQA:	
Dr. Fawaz Hamdallah	903644
Khalid pharmacy	963417

### EMERGENCIES

Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	
Rescue	630341
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 677777
Fire Brigade	891208
Blood Bank	775221
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630331
Hotel Complaints	625800
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897487
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
Telephone Information (directory assistance)	121
Overseas Calls	810230
Central Amman Telephone	
Repairs	
Abdali Telephone Repairs	661401
Jordan Television	771111
Radio Jordan	774111

Water Authority ..... 880100  
Jordan Electricity Authority ..... 815615  
Electric Power Company ..... 636381  
RJ Flight Information ..... 08-53200  
Oceana Air Int. Airport ..... 08-53200

### HOSPITALS

AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	813813/2
Khalid Maternity, J. Amn	644281/6
Akileh Maternity, J. Amn	644241/2
Jabal Amman Maternity	642582
Madina, J. Amman	636140
Palestine, Shamsi	664171/4
Shmeisat Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Musharraf Hospital	667271/9
The Islamic, Abjari	669127/7
Al-Ahli, Abjari	664164/6
Italian, Al-Muhajreen	77101/3
Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh	77111/2/6
Aray, Marja	89161/1/5
Queen Alia Hospital	602240/50
Amal Hospital	674155
ZARQA:	
Zarqa Govt. Hospital	09183323

Zarqa National Hospital ..... 09180560  
De Sina Hospital ..... 09186732  
Al-Hilana Modern Hospital ..... 09199990  
BRID:

### FOR THE TRAVELLER

#### QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (06)53200-5, where it should always be verified.

#### ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
07:15	Sanaa (RJ)

06:00	Jeddah (RJ)	<b>Other Flights (Terminal 2)</b>
06:15	Cairo, Agaba (RJ)	
06:15	Riyadh (RJ)	
06:20	Damascus (RJ)	06:15 Beirut (ME)
06:45	Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)	16:25 Cairo (MS)
06:50	New Delhi (RJ)	16:30 Adan (AL)
06:55	Beirut (RJ)	13:45
07:00	Cairo (RJ)	Sabirah, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)
07:05	Bangkok (RJ)	17:35 Istanbul (TK)
07:10	Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)	20:00 Dubai (EM)
07:20	London (RJ)	23:59 Khartoum (RJ)

<b>MARKET PRICES</b>	
<i>Upper/lower price in Jds per kg</i>	
06:00	Khartoum (SU)
06:30	Adan (AL)
06:35	Bahrain (MS)
12:00	Abu Dhabi, Doha (GF)
16:30	Istanbul (TK)
18:30	Vienna, Larnaca (OS)
19:00	Dubai, Damascus (EM)

<b>DEPARTURES</b>	
<b>Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights</b>	
<b>(Terminal 1)</b>	
06:15	Beirut (RJ)
16:25	London (RJ)
11:15	Toronto/Montreal (RJ)
12:10	London (RJ)
03:15	Frankfurt (RJ)
12:45	Cairo (RJ)
20:00	Dhahran (RJ)
20:30	Abu Dhabi (RJ)
20:50	Bahrain, Doha (RJ)





**KING HONOURS CHINESE ENVOY:** His Majesty King Hussein received Sunday at the Royal Court Chinese Ambassador to Jordan Zhang De Liang on the occasion of the end of his tour of duty in the Kingdom. King Hussein discussed with the Chinese envoy Jordanian-Chinese relations and ways of enhancing them. His Majesty conferred Al Istiklal Medal of the First Order upon the outgoing ambassador in recognition of his efforts in bolstering bilateral ties (Petra Photo)

## AADO endorses Jordan's proposal

AMMAN (J.T.) — A pan-Arab agricultural meeting held in Damascus last week has endorsed a Jordanian proposal for the creation of an Arab common market for the exchange of agricultural products.

Agriculture Minister Fayez Khasawneh headed the Jordanian delegation to the meeting, which was organized by the Arab Agricultural Development Organisation (AADO).

The minister said the Jordanian proposal aims at ensuring the flow of agricultural products and providing protection to national commodities in the face of foreign competition.

He added that the participants decided that Jordan should prepare a memorandum detailing the mechanism for implementation of its proposal and submit it to the AADO secretariat so that the further steps can be taken in that

direction. The Damascus meeting also took up a Palestinian memorandum which calls for revamping the agricultural sector in the occupied Arab territories. The memorandum also calls on Arab states to help provide training to Palestinian groups which can help achieve agricultural development and implement major agricultural projects, Dr. Khasawneh said.

Another topic on the agenda was the creation of a higher Arab body to control the Arab World's production and consumption of cereals, as well as a body to deal with issues related to water resources.

The delegates discussed the AADO financial crisis resulting from failure of Arab countries to honour their commitments to the organisation and a new call was issued urging the states to pay their dues.

## Police divulge little on 'Abu Shakoush' arrests; copycat theory suggested

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Security officials remained tightlipped Sunday over a report that police had nabbed a killer and robber nicknamed "Abu Shakoush (hammerman)." Informed sources suggested that copycat criminals could have been behind a series of attacks attributed to Abu Shakoush.

According to a report in the Arabic-language Al Ra'i newspaper, a 35-year-old man identified by his initials as K.K.M.A., originally from Jaffa in pre-1948 Palestine, was arrested in the Wihdat area by Ashrafyeh police.

The report said the suspect was carrying a hammer and that upon seeing an approaching police patrol he threw it at another man walking with him. The second man, whom the report identified as Z.M.R., 33, fled the scene and remained at large.

The detained suspect was a resident of the Dababiyeh area of the densely-populated Wihdat suburb it said. "Investigations are continuing to establish why the suspect tried to get rid of the hammer upon seeing the police patrol," the report said, without giving further details.

Police sources confirmed that "there were some arrests" in the Wihdat area, but refused to reveal whether any of those detained was suspected of being Abu Shakoush.

"We don't think it was one person who was behind the (six known) attacks," said one of the sources. "It is highly probable that different people carried out the crimes and deliberately left a trail suggesting it was one individual."

The source refused to say whether police had any definite clues to suggest the existence of Abu Shakoush copycats.

"Let us say that we are not convinced that there is a sole individual who could be called Abu Shakoush and be carried out all these attacks," said the source. Police have stepped up surveillance and patrols, the source said, indirectly affirming that police vigilance had led to the arrest in Al Wihdat.

The last attack attributed to Abu Shakoush occurred in the Wihdat suburb three weeks ago at a paint shop, during the early hours of the day.

Neighbours found the shopowner lying in a pool of blood with heavy injuries to the skull, inflicted with an apparently blunt instrument, possibly a hammer, reports said.

The reports said an unspecified amount of cash and a cheque for JD 1,000 were missing from the shop. The owner was hospitalised with serious head injuries.

It was speculated that the attack could have involved more than one person since the indications were that a sole assailant would have trouble overpowering the heavily-built victim. At least in one previous attack, the victim reported that the assailant was accompanied by an accomplice.

Targets of other attacks attributed to Abu Shakoush, despite police scepticism whether it was a sole assailant, included a building materials shop, a liquor store, a spare parts shop and a supermarket, as well as a pharmacy, where a pharmacist was found killed.

The common features in all the incidents were that all attacks took place during the early hours of the day and all victims were elderly men who were hit in the head with a blunt instrument — presumably a hammer. A medium-size hammer was left behind at the scene of the crime after the attack on the pharmacist.

In addition, only cash carried by the immediate victims of the attacks was robbed, and cash registers were left untouched.

Early police reports based on descriptions supplied by victims suggested that the culprit could be an Egyptian national or someone speaking with an Egyptian accent, dark-skinned and medium-built, wearing a head-dress which could be used to hide his facial features. One victim has described him as "clean-shaven and with a big moustache."

## AMO strives to increase exports

By Elia Nasrallah  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Jordan's successful participation in a four-day agricultural exposition earlier this month in Abu Dhabi resulted in more deals for exporters of Jordanian agricultural produce to the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Director General of the Agricultural Marketing Organisation (AMO) Salem Al Lawzi, who attended the exposition told the Jordan Times the Kingdom displayed samples of its fruits, vegetables, olive oil, olives, honey, as well as agricultural equipment including drip irrigation systems, fertilisers and plastic sheets for plasticulture.

The UAE, a traditional market for Jordan, absorbs no less than 20 per cent of total Jordanian agricultural exports, Dr. Lawzi said.

He said in 1992 Jordan exported 378,000 tonnes of agricultural products to Arab and foreign countries including Europe. The AMO, he said, is striving to ensure more exports in 1993.

Exports to Europe amount to 35 to 40 tonnes of produce per day, Dr. Lawzi said.

Agricultural exports to Bulgaria, Hungary and other eastern European destinations are shipped by refrigerated trucks; those



Dr. Salem Al Lawzi

to western European countries are air freighted, Dr. Lawzi said. He added that the cost of air freighting was high, at 450 fils per kilogramme, and negotiations with Royal Jordanian (RJ) are underway to reduce the tariff.

Referring to Saudi Arabia, Dr. Lawzi said that while refrigerated trucks pass through Saudi territory on their way to the UAE and other areas in the peninsula, Saudi Arabia imports only Jordanian fruits, especially citrus fruit in the winter season.

Asked to comment on the recent frost damage to crops in the Jordan Valley, Dr. Lawzi said the crops worst hit were the marrows and the bananas, especially in the northern valley region.

But according to Dr. Lawzi, the damage is far below that of the previous winter.

## Fourth leftist party licensed

By P.V. Vivekanand  
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — A leftist group, the Jordan People's Democratic Party (JPDP), became the latest party to secure legal status in Jordan after the government took the initiative to settle a raging controversy over rejections of applications for licence filed by leftist parties.

The JPDP was granted licence on Sunday to operate as a political party in Jordan after the group provided a series of clarifications to the Ministry of Interior following meetings with a committee representing the Council of Ministers.

"We have been recognised as a Jordanian political party by the Ministry of Interior," said Tayseer Zibri, secretary-general of the party which had gone to the Higher Court of Justice with an appeal against the ministry's decision in mid-December to turn down its application.

According to party insiders, the main reason for the rejection was what was seen as organic and financial links between the JPDP and the Damascus-based Democratic Front for the Liberation of Palestine (DFLP) led by Nayef Hawatmeh.

The sources also said that a list of party founding members submitted to the Ministry of Interior also contained the names of at least two people who held temporary two-year Jordanian passports.

Two-year passports are issued to residents of the Israeli-occupied West Bank to facilitate their travel. The document does not entitle them to full

citizenship.

There was no immediate explanation as to how this problem was tackled by the party before securing a licence.

It was known, however, that the original list had about 130 names, whereas the minimum requirement was only 50. Therefore, the deletion of the two unqualified names could have solved this problem. But this could not be confirmed by independent sources.

The Political Parties Law, which was enacted on Sept. 1, stipulates that no Jordanian group linked in any form or content with an external party will be granted legal status in the Kingdom.

It also states that only Jordanian citizens could join any political party in the Kingdom.

Mr. Zibri, addressing a press conference held at the party's offices in Sheikhsani, said JPDP officials as well as representatives of other parties which were denied a licence held a series of meetings with the ministerial committee to work out a solution to the impasse resulting from the ministry's decision to turn down the parties' applications.

The parties had gone to the Higher Court of Justice with appeals against the rejections. Their arguments said that the Ministry of Interior was licensing only mainstream nationalist Jordanian groups with pro-establishment loyalties.

"Subsequent to the meetings with the ministerial committee, we provided a set of clarifications to the Ministry of Interior," said Mr. Zibri, a prominent former member of the DFLP leadership



Tayseer Zibri

who led the DFLP faction in Jordan until the new law took effect.

Mr. Zibri said the explanations represented an annex to the JPDP manifesto, submitted earlier to the ministry.

The clarifications, shrouded in legal terms and references to various articles in the Political Parties Law, indicated that the party reaffirmed its commitment to the Jordanian Constitution and adherence to the Kingdom's laws and regulations, as well as respect for national security and various related organisations.

It said its financial sources were exclusively Jordanian, that it had no links with any external organisation and that it remained committed to the principle that no individual could be a member of two political parties.

It also reiterated that the party would adopt a neutral approach towards various public institutions, particularly in the education sector, meaning that it would not involve any government in-

stitution or school in political activities.

The JPDP, which includes Deputy Bassam Haddin (Zarqa) and writer Salem Nahas among its prominent members, became the ninth political party to be registered in Jordan following the enactment of the new law on Sept. 1, lifting a three-decade ban on political parties in the Kingdom.

Three other groups which were also granted legal status in line with the government effort to defuse the controversy and realign the political process in the Kingdom were the Jordan Democratic Progressive Party (led by Ali Amer), the Jordan Communist Party (Yacoub Zayadin) and the Jordan Arab Socialist Baath Party (Ahmad Najdawi).

Others which have been given legal status so far are:

— The Jordan National Alliance, (a pro-establishment group of tribal leaders from the south and central parts of Jordan, led by Mijhem Khreissha);

— The Popular Union Party, (Arab nationalists, led by Tala Ramahy);

— The Pledge Party (pro-establishment, led by Abdul Hadi Al Majali);

— The Future, (pro-establishment, led by Suleiman Arar);

— The Islamic Action Front, (formally described as a broad-based Islamic coalition, but dominated by the Muslim Brotherhood);

Activists said applications filed by at least three other groups were pending with the Ministry of Interior, which is expected to issue its decisions soon.

## Poultry farmers voice complaints

KARAK (Petra) — Poultry farmers in Karak are finding it difficult to market their production of chicken, because of an increase in supply and a drop in prices.

The Jordanian News Agency, Petra, interviewed some farmers who complained about the drop in prices and increasing costs of poultry fodder. Their troubles are compounded further in the winter months when chickens die from below freezing temperatures.

One poultry farmer, Turki Abdul Latif Al Majali, said Karak farmers have been selling chicken at 650 to 680 fils per kilogramme for almost five months. He said the sale price is at least 220 fils less than the retail price, adding that this amount goes to the marketing agents and the poultry shops. In view of the large supply, farmers are forced to keep chickens in their farms for 70 days, thus incurring additional costs for fodder, Mr. Majali said.

He said the normal period needed to raise chickens for sale to the public ranges between 50 and 55 days, which means that they keep chicken for 15 extra days, without them gaining any weight.

This in turn costs the farmer at least 100 fils, let alone the effort required to look after the chickens.

Another farmer, Aref Tarawneh, said the problem encountered

by poultry farmers has two dimensions: one economic and the other agriculture.

The economic dimension is reflected in the rising costs of production and the ongoing increase in the supply, which are not matched by a similar increase in demand, Mr. Tarawneh said.

He blamed the increased supply on the lack of coordination between farmers and the shortage of cold rooms or stores.

On the agricultural dimension, he said the quality of fodder available is poor, yet the prices are high; in addition, effective veterinary drugs are lacking.

Those factors combined contribute to the increased cost of chicken for the farmers, he said.

Mr. Tarawneh pointed out that the kilogramme of chicken costs the farmer 720 fils, while he is actually selling it for 580 fils or 650 fils and the retail price is almost 900 fils per kilogramme. He added that the consumer is not benefiting from the drop in the price of chicken at farms, but the marketing agents and the retailers are.

Mr. Tarawneh called for increasing the storage capacity in existing slaughter houses or constructing new slaughterhouses and cold rooms, and for subsidising fodder and rescheduling the debts of farmers, without adding any further interest on their loans.

## Jordanians come out to support Iraqi people

By Sa'eda Kilani  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Voicing their discontent over what they see as constant violation of human rights, Jordanians took to the streets Sunday expressing their support for the Iraqi people and the Palestinian expellees and demanding the full implementation of United Nations resolutions.

In front of the U.N. headquarters in Amman, around 50 demonstrators staged a four-hour sit-in to protest "the double standards used by Americans against the Iraqi people and the Palestinian expellees."

Banners daubed with slogans such as "Stop the suffering of both Palestinians and the Iraqi people" and "why do you apply double standards?" characterised the peaceful sit-in, organised by the Committee for Solidarity with the Palestinian Expellees along with the Jordanian Popular Committee for the Support of the Intifada and the Islamic Support Committee.

The president of the solidarity committee, Dr. Mamdouh Al Abbadi, told the Jordan Times that "it is merely a symbolic act that is bound to be repeated (as long as violations of U.N. resolutions continue)."

In a speech to the gathering, Dr. Abbadi called for the application of just policy and demanded

more consideration to the humane aspect of their problem. He said that more consideration should be paid to the suffering of the evictees and the long period they have spent away from the families and children.

"It is 39 days of torture and suffering," he said. "39 days of degradation... 39 days of coldness, disease and hunger," he said.

Jordanians also participated Sunday in a march that started in Abdali, with about 500 people taking part at the beginning, and ending with around 3,000 at the Hashimiyeh Square.

The two-hour march was aimed at raising funds and collecting supplies for Iraqi children.

The march, organised by the Jordanian National Youth Federation, was continuously interrupted by calls and slogans condemning the U.S. policy and rejecting "the American-Zionist supremacy on the Arab territory."

The union's president, Deputy Mansour Seif Eddin Murad, delivered a speech at the end of the march in which he called upon the national groups to draw up a common plan of action.

During the march demonstrators shouted "America, listen well, we love Saddam Hussein," and "our blood and souls we sacrifice for you Iraq."

Leading activists, public figures and leaders of political parties, except for the Islamic movements, attended the march, among whom was Deputy Leith Shbeilat. Children accompanied by their parents also took part.

## WHAT'S GOING ON

### EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition entitled "Latin American Countries in France" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Modernist Still Life Photographed" at the American Centre.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "Dhanna, a Village from South Jordan" displaying photos and other items on the village at the Royal Cultural Centre.

### LECTURES

- ★ Lecture entitled "New Discoveries at the Temple of Zeus in Jerash" by architect Jacques Seigne at the Friends of Archaeology Centre — 7 p.m.
- ★ Lecture entitled "Participatory Data Collection" by Soumaya Hüner and Edda Augustin of the GTZ's Women in Development Project in Cairo at the Goethe Institute — 6 p.m.

### FILM

- ★ French film entitled "Vivement Dimanche" at the French Cultural Centre — 8 p.m.



### ANNOUNCEMENT ISSUED BY Jordan University of Science & Technology

Due to several requests submitted by qualified Contractors interested in the Construction of King Abdullah Hospital Project, Jordan University of Science & Technology has extended the closing date for inquiries and submission of tenders as follows:

1. Last date for inquiries will be 15th February 1993.
2. Last date for submission of tenders will be 12:00 noon, Wednesday 14th of April 1993.

Secretary General  
Chairman, Central Tendering Committee

### Embassy Of India Amman Republic Day of India

On the occasion of the Republic Day of India, a flag hoisting ceremony will be held on Tuesday, January 26, 1993, at 10 a.m. at the premises of the Embassy of India, First Circle, Jabal Amman (Opp. Malhas Hospital). All Indians with their family members are cordially invited to attend the function.

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## Clear signals, blurred reading

OBVIOUSLY, there is something mysteriously wrong in the latest round of American attacks against Iraqi targets, and Baghdad's denial of doing anything to provoke them. For one thing, it should be clear to the international community by now that, for whatever reasons — internal or external — there is a genuine desire for peace in Baghdad which knows more than anyone else that the U.S. is on the war path and would strike at the first sign of any further "defiance" of not only U.N. Security Council resolutions but also the allied-imposed rules of the game such as the "no-fly" zones and the rest.

While the imbroglio sparked by what Washington and some of its allies saw as Saddam Hussein thumbing his nose at them remains in a state of confusion over what piece fits where in the puzzle, one school of thought in the region definitely goes along with the Iraqi argument that the remnants of the Bush administration in Washington, aided by the military establishment, could actually be misguiding the new president.

For all practical purposes, the Bush administration's "get-Saddam-at-any-cost" policy was not a policy but an empty slogan as the Gulf crisis, the devastating war and the lingering problems have proven. If anything, the latest American military strikes have gone a long way in further consolidating the power and popularity of the Iraqi leadership.

The Clinton administration and its strategists should realise that there is little sense in any further pursuit of the Bush policy. Achieving this objective is an almost impossible task as senior American officials and intelligence experts have concluded.

And, even if the Clinton administration succeeded in ousting Saddam, the questions and problems that the new U.S. president will have to solve would be much more complex; perhaps even more painful and disastrous to the same American interests that he has been elected to serve.

The signals coming out of Baghdad, judged against the backdrop of our familiarity with Iraq and Iraqis, are loud and clear: The country, its leadership and its people are fed up with years of straining under the harsh conditions created by the international sanctions. They are willing to compromise to settle their conflict with the West and put the entire episode behind in history. But, by the same token, compromise should not be read in the American dictionary as Iraqi capitulation.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

IT IS not clear yet whether the new U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher will make a tour of the Middle East early next month to stimulate the peace process, but what is certain is that Israel will not spare any moment to abort the process and blame the Arabs for the failure, said Al Ra'i Arabic daily Sunday. The daily said that the mass expulsion of the 415 Palestinians to southern Lebanon was part of Israel's evil attempts to undermine the process and its rejection of the U.N. resolution is designed to show the world the Jewish state's disregard of the world community's decisions. For Israel, peace is a dangerous thing because it means a halt to its expansionist plans in the Arab region, and for this reason, it is obvious that all attempts to prevent the repatriation of the 415 Palestinians aim at complicating matters for the peace negotiators, noted the paper. It said that the Arab countries have no alternative to self-restraint and protecting the peace process from Israel's intransigence and evil designs. The paper said that the Arabs can only keep pressuring Washington into exerting real efforts to force Israel to abide by U.N. Resolutions and end the occupation.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily discussed U.S.'s continued raids on Iraq and said that it is clear now that the military who served under Bush have been instructed by the former administration to maintain the attacks on Iraq in order to embarrass the new administration and involve it into further crises. The paper said that should the raids continue, the new administration will sacrifice its credibility and will hinder Clinton administration's attempts to bring about peace. Continued aggression on Iraq under the new administration does not anger the Iraqi people alone, but it would rather trigger angry and hostile reactions on the part of the Arab and Islamic nations and the world at large, warned the daily. The paper noted that Iraq has been complying strictly with the U.N. resolutions and implementing all the terms and conditions contained in the ceasefire agreement; therefore, the raids are meaningless and can only be described as provocative. While the United Nations continues to enforce its resolutions on Iraq, Israel is allowed to escape punishment and get away with its crimes, the paper pointed out. It said that Mr. Clinton should realise that the Arab World seeks peace and security but can not accept aggression. It said that the double standards vis-a-vis world affairs ought to stop if the Clinton administration and the United Nations are to retain their credibility.

# United Nations expands role, forges new paths in 1992

By Judy Aita

UNITED NATIONS — In 1992 the United Nations embarked on an "agenda for peace" that took the world organisation into new areas not envisioned by the framers of the U.N. Charter.

The year began with a new secretary general, Boutros Ghali of Egypt, and a historic Security Council summit — the first since the United Nations was founded in 1945.

The unprecedented council summit on Jan. 31 highlighted the vital role of the United Nations and its member states in channeling the benefits brought about by the cooling of East-West tensions and guiding nations through the post cold war era.

In the final summit declaration, President Bush and other world leaders pledged to work together for economic and social development and peace. Participants also asked the secretary general to recommend how the council might take a more active and positive role in preserving peace and averting crises.

In his June report to the council, Mr. Ghali suggested that one possible option would involve the U.N. Charter provision that allows U.N. members to make armed forces and facilities available to the council on an ad hoc basis as well as permanently — in effect providing for a U.N. standing army.

The secretary general also recommended that peacekeeping units be allowed in certain circumstances to use force to restore and maintain a ceasefire; that new arrangements be made to deal with the increasing danger and threats to U.N. personnel; and that a \$50 million revolving peacekeeping reserve fund be established.

Mr. Ghali noted that with the end of the cold war, the original promise of the United Nations may be more possible to fulfill.

"In these past months a conviction has grown...that an opportunity has been regained to achieve the great objectives of the Charter — a United Nations capable of maintaining international peace and security, of securing justice and human rights and of promoting, in the words of the Charter, 'social progress and better standards of life in larger freedom,'" Mr. Ghali said.

While the secretary general's report, "Agenda for Peace," was never formally adopted by either the Security Council or the U.N. General Assembly, its recommendations have been debated and, in some instances, have been put into practice. For example, during 1992 U.N. fact-finding missions were sent to Georgia and Nagorno-Karabakh, a predominantly Armenian enclave in Azerbaijan, and a good-will mission was dispatched to Tajikistan. The council also expanded the U.N. Protection Force in the former Yugoslav republics to Macedonia as a preventive measure. That mission marked the first time the United Nations had sent a peacekeeping unit or order to prevent the outbreak of a potential conflict.

Returning for the opening of the General Assembly in September, President Bush reiterated the U.S. commitment to strengthen the United Nations' ability to meet the challenges to peace and security around the world.

The president said the United States will train U.S. military

personnel for U.N. peacekeeping and humanitarian relief operations; establish a permanent peacekeeping curriculum in U.S. military schools; make U.S. bases and facilities available for multinational training and field exercises; and provide U.S. military expertise to help the United Nations strengthen its peacekeeping operations.

The council also responded in 1992 to a series of challenges to peace and stability stemming from longstanding conflicts, as well as newly emerging crises, in such areas as Iraq, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Somalia, the former Soviet republics, Angola, Libya and Cambodia.

### Iraq

As U.N. diplomats in 1992 contemplated future approaches and strategies for the United Nations' changing role in peacemaking and other areas, they also dealt with continuing problems in some world regions, including Iraq's consistent breaches of Security Council ceasefire terms for the Gulf war.

An exasperated but resolute

of Iraq's invasion and occupation of Kuwait.

### Libya

On March 31 the council voted to impose an air embargo on Libya for its failure to cooperate in the investigation and extradition of suspects in the bombing of two civilian airliners. The council, in assessing the incident, said it was "convinced that the suppression of actions of international terrorism, including those in which states are directly or indirectly involved, is essential for the maintenance of international peace and security."

The sanctions will remain in place until Libya cooperates with the United States, Britain and France in the investigation and prosecution of Libyans suspected in the bombing of Pan Am and UTA flights; agrees to pay compensation; and demonstrates, "by concrete actions," that it had definitively ended all terrorist actions and assistance to terrorist groups.

### Bosnia-Herzegovina

Another major concern for the

prohibit the importation of all commodities and products from Serbia and Montenegro; ban air traffic and the use of flag vessels other than specifically approved humanitarian flights, and freeze external bank accounts and other financial assets. They also prohibit oil sales and other trade with the Belgrade regime and prevented Yugoslav athletes from participating in the summer Olympics in Barcelona.

By September, the representatives of Serbia and Montenegro, who occupied the former Yugoslavia seat in the General Assembly, were barred from participating in the work of the assembly.

As reports of atrocities and of "ethnic cleansing" in Bosnia continued to surface, the council in October established a commission to investigate reports of war crimes in the former Yugoslavia. Council members called the commission a first step in a process that could ultimately lead to the prosecution of individuals for war crimes in the Yugoslav conflict.

In November, following indications that the U.N. sanctions regime against Serbia was being

the peace process and help organise elections which were held in September, the Security Council strongly condemned the resumption of hostilities by National Union for the Total Independence of Angola (UNITA).

Even though U.N. and international observers determined that "there was no conclusive evidence of major, systematic, or widespread fraud," UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi accused the ruling party of Jose Eduardo dos Santos of rigging the election.

### Liberia

Elsewhere in Africa, the council imposed a mandatory arms embargo against Liberia in an effort of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) to end the civil war in that west African country.

### Somalia

Somalia was also in the forefront of U.N. action in 1992 following Mr. Ghali's proposal for an "innovative and comprehensive" U.N. plan in Somalia.

### Cambodia

In 1992, the council also launched the largest peacekeeping operation in U.N. history — the \$1,900-million U.N. Transitional Authority in Cambodia (UNTAC). Designed to oversee Cambodia's peaceful transition to a democracy, the operation continued, despite a major setback when the Khmer Rouge refused to cooperate with UNTAC.

### General Assembly

Although the Security Council dominated news from the United Nations in 1992 — meeting 129 times in formal discussions and holding hundreds of private sessions — the General Assembly, whose membership reached 179 during the year, endeavored to keep its activities publicized. The assembly president, Bulgarian Foreign Minister Stoyan Ganev, said in December that the post-cold war geopolitical realignment had modified the General Assembly's role in world affairs.

"It is time for the General Assembly to do more than promote and reflect the expression of good intentions on the part of its member states by merely passing resolutions...The General Assembly is facing an historic challenge: to truly become a functional world parliament on the basis of the United Nations Charter," Mr. Ganev said.

In 1992, the assembly continued to keep pressure on the Haitian regime, strongly condemning "the attempted illegal replacement" of Haitian President Jean-Bertrand Aristide and human rights violations in that Caribbean country.

The assembly also responded to human rights situations elsewhere in the world, including Sudan, Cuba, the former Yugoslav republics, Afghanistan, Myanmar and El Salvador.

Adopting more than 270 resolutions in 1992, the assembly, among other actions, called for an international peace conference on Somalia; accepted the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and Their Destruction"; set out the agenda for the 1993 World Conference on Human Rights; and established a 53-nation Sustainable Development Commission to follow up the work of the conference on the environment in Rio de Janeiro — United States Information Agency.

M. KAHIL



Security Council confronted top Iraqi officials twice during the year to remind them that the Baghdad regime had failed to comply with several major points of the ceasefire agreement. The council noted that Iraq had refused to cooperate with U.N. weapons inspection teams, withholding data from them; that it refused to withdraw police posts from U.N.-patrolled areas along the Kuwaiti border; continued to hold thousands of Kuwaiti and third country prisoners of war; refused to sell oil to buy humanitarian supplies and make payments to the war compensation fund; and failed to service its foreign debt.

The council demanded compliance with its resolutions and rebuffed Iraqi requests to lift the wide-ranging economic and military sanctions imposed as a result

council was the worsening situation in the former Yugoslav republics, especially human rights violations in Bosnia-Herzegovina.

In April, Mr. Ghali rejected Bosnia's request for enlarging the U.N. peacekeeping force, citing "the current widespread violence" which, he said, made it impossible to define a workable concept for a U.N. peacekeeping operation. However, by June, the council unanimously approved a plan to expand the force to deliver humanitarian aid and, in August, authorised the use of force if needed to get food and medicine to Bosnia's beleaguered civilians.

In May, the Security Council first imposed wide-ranging mandatory economic sanctions against Serbia and Montenegro for the aggression against neighbouring Bosnia. The sanctions

circumvented regularly, the council voted overwhelmingly to ban shipments of most goods through Serbia and Montenegro and to allow nations to halt and inspect ships and their cargoes in the Adriatic Sea and on the Danube River.

In the final weeks of 1992, the United States was actively working to convince council members to adopt another resolution to enforce the ban on military flights over Bosnia that had been imposed in October.

### Angola

Problems in Africa, including the crisis in Angola, were prominent on the United Nations' agenda in 1992.

Following considerable effort by the United Nations to oversee

His initiative called for a programme to help bring about a ceasefire throughout the country, oversee demobilisation and disarmament, promote national reconciliation and provide humanitarian relief and reconstruction programmes.

The secretary general said "the threat of mass starvation facing large segments of the population and the potential renewal of hostilities which could affect peace and stability throughout the Horn of Africa region" required an "immediate and comprehensive response from the United Nations and the international community."

In July, the Security Council asked Mr. Ghali to use all available means, including an emergency airlift, to get food to the starving people of Somalia. After the United States offered to

## Obsolete legacies and reflections of tomorrow

By Najwa Kefaya

Conscious women living in this patriarchal, male-prejudiced society are frustrated by the injustice inflicted upon them only for being women. They are tired of serving as "scapegoats" for the sustenance of the family and the "male-dominated society."

Women's affairs specialists are impeded in their work to help fellow women as they are constantly confronted by agony and despair caused by this partiality. They employ their utmost attention, time and effort to help many or those underprivileged, wretched women overcome the tragic predicament they suffer from and help them in the process of developing themselves, raise their awareness, empower them and improve their overall status in our society.

However, every now and then, for us, as agents for women's development, a tragic event takes place and triggers our otherwise submerged frustration, upon which we lose all our momentum and come to a halt. With much despair, we feel that all our efforts and dedication in the field of women's development are, to say the least, totally inadequate, if not purely in vain. We feel our goals to enhance the development of our society at large through enhancing the development of its "underdeveloped

half", are too ambitious, if at all attainable. It is a dream which could never materialise within the status quo of our male-oriented, male-dominated society with its obsolete assumptions. Changing this pathetic status quo is impossible to attain without the vital support and the vigorous patronage of the political and legislative systems.

Today, the need for unified, concentrated lobbying to attain such a support is urgently needed, as we bear of yet another social calamity, where a female victim is sacrificed on the altar of our precious honour and priceless values. It is amazing how the ardour urge to preserve the chastity of the Arab woman supersedes and overrules all other priorities of our pathetic present. As if the Arab Nation has retrieved all its lost integrity and the only thing left to redeem the chastity of its women, which ironically, is the major yardstick to measure the honour of its men, with little relevance to their personal achievements!

As an excellent manifestation of the above, here is a story which stirs the exasperation of the reader. It is a story that appeared in the Al Dostour Arabic newspaper of Jan. 3, 1993, under "From the police and judiciary files" section. The story is about a man

who killed his wife after stabbing her in the throat and back three times. We also learn that this man was convicted of premeditated murder but sentenced only to one year in prison as his deed was justified by the fact that he "doubted the moral conduct of his wife."

A woman is dead because her husband claims that her conduct was "improper", and that what "provoked" him to commit the crime specifically was that on the day of the murder, and at 13:00 hours (in the midst of the day), she stood out in the open yard of the house, "looking and smiling at a person (not even confirmed if it was a man or a woman), in the next building!"

What a price to pay for what might have been an innocent act, a wrong perception on the part of the husband, (who in turn may have been outrageously jealous), or a hundred other probabilities which would by no means justify such a savage action. The slaughtered woman might very well have been "not guilty"! But she never lived to prove her "innocence".

Must all men understand from this example that slaughtering their wives, even if they only as much as doubted them, is a simple act which is justifiable within our legislative system? A simple

logical deduction says yes.

It would be quite interesting to research into how many men got away with one year or so in jail after slaughtering women from their families, be they daughters, sisters, wives or even cousins to "wash the disgrace inflicted on their families" after "incriminating" them just by "doubting" them!

It is time for a "social perestroika" in our society if we genuinely aim at development, for no development could take place without social reform which entails much rectifying of wrong situations, actions, civil rights and legislation.

Before considering any development action we must get rid of our obsolete detrimental legacies. Not all traditions are good nor are modern ideas all bad. Let's scrutinise what we already have and be selective in what we retain. Every now and then one has to go through one's old possessions and do some sorting out, discarding and reorganising. Let's do this with our legislative, criminal and civil, and human rights systems. Let's do it today rather than tomorrow.

The writer is a specialist for the Women's Programme at the U.N. and a free-lance journalist.

### LETTERS

## More human rights violations

To the Editor:

This is to bring to your kind attention that in the carnage and arson carried out on Jan. 6, 1993, by Indian paramilitary forces in Sopore, in Indian-held Kashmir, more than 75 Kashmiris, including women and children, were killed and hundreds of houses, shops and vehicles were destroyed by fire deliberately set by the Indian forces.

The latest massacre committed by the Indian occupation forces had sparked protest demonstrations throughout Indian-held Jammu and Kashmir and brought life to a complete standstill. The unprecedented death and destruction wreaked by its forces has been condemned by Asia Watch and Amnesty International and is likely to prompt denunciation by other human rights bodies. The U.S. State Department has voiced "concern" over the tragic incident.

The urgent priorities are cessation of the military crackdown and violations of human rights and the restitution of the internationally-acknowledged right to self-determination of the people of Kashmir.

We feel the escalating Indian repression and violation of human rights should be condemned by all nations and individuals who support human rights and are against forceful occupation.

Shaukat Ali Mukadam,  
Charge d'Affaires,  
Embassy of Pakistan,  
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

هكذا مت الأمل



## iraq denies firing at U.S. jets

(Continued from page 1)

On Sunday, the official Iraqi news Agency (INA) quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as saying Iraqi forces had not fired at the American planes or turned a tracking radar.

The incident, he said, "did not take place at all." He also told INA that Iraqi forces were still trying to find the site of the bomb dropped by the planes.

He added: "Iraq is still bound by the ceasefire."

Iraq earlier issued denials to incidents Thursday and Friday in the northern "no-fly" zone.

In a later report Sunday, INA quoted a Foreign Ministry spokesman as admitting that Iraq had a "low-level radar" functioning at the time that U.S. warplanes attacked a missile base near the northern oil centre of Mosul earlier in the week.

The Pentagon usually has said it bombed missile bases only after they switched on their radar. But the Iraqi spokesman said in this incident, it was a "normal, general low-level" radar, the kind used by air traffic controllers at airports — not by missile crew.

At a news conference in Baghdad, two Iraqi officers — engineers at the Defence Ministry — argued that the cruise missile that hit the Al Rashid Hotel on Jan. 17 was a deliberate attack.

"It was directed 100 per cent to this point," Brigadier Mnjahid Al Ani, one of the engineers, told reporters. "These missiles are accurate to within 10 metres."

The Iraqi officers explained what they said was cruise missile technology and showed films of what appeared to be the approaching missile with its strobe lights flashing.

They concluded it was aimed at the hotel because cruise strobe lights begin flashing five seconds before hitting target, in an effort to check the location.

The officers also said the hotel must have been the target because cruise warheads only are armed just before reaching target and that this warhead exploded.

The U.S. government says the intended target was the Al Nida industrial complex, 13 kilometres away from the Al Rashid.

## House puts off debate on civil service

(Continued from page 1)

endorsed a draft law on the welfare of the mentally and physically handicapped as amended by the Judiciary Committee.

If passed by the Senate and endorsed by His Majesty the King, the law will reserve two per cent of work opportunities at government agencies and public companies to the handicapped and will require public buildings to have special facilities for them. The law will also grant tax exemptions to organisations in-

involved in the treatment, care and rehabilitation of the handicapped.

The House, which will hold its next meeting on Wednesday, also listened to ministers' answers to deputies' questions on a number of domestic issues and referred proposals by some deputies to its Administrative Committee.

These include a request signed by 58 deputies for surcharges on cigarettes and other products and industries that are proven to contribute to causing cancer.

## Syria urges Clinton to save peace talks

(Continued from page 1)

"could be very appropriate because he will feel at first hand an Israeli position which contradicts the trends towards peace."

Syria's vice president, meanwhile, said Damascus wanted the talks to continue despite the lack of progress so far.

"We are still at the starting point, but this does not mean that the peace process has reached a dead end or failed and we will continue the negotiations," Abdul Halim Khaddam said in an interview with the London-based Arabic magazine Al Wasat.

"If we reach any results that will satisfy us and achieve our national goals we will continue and if we don't reach that we will of course stop," he added.

Mr. Khaddam said Syria would not consider receiving senior Israeli officials, including Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin.

"We are still in a state of war with Israel and the reasons for the state of war are still there," he said.

When asked if Damascus would permit a visit by Mr. Rabin, Asked about the Middle East policies of Mr. Clinton, Mr. Khaddam said: "There has been no contact between the new American administration and the Arab negotiating teams. We have to wait for some time."

President Clinton telephoned Mr. Rabin Saturday and promised to continue the close cooperation between the United States and Israel.

Mr. Clinton also urged the Israeli leader to keep "close personal relations" with him, said Gad Ben-Ari, Mr. Rabin's media adviser.

"The U.S. president told the prime minister that we would work very close with Israel to promote peace in the Middle East," Mr. Ben-Ari said.

## Israel hopes U.S. will block sanctions

(Continued from page 1)

would issue a report to the Security Council.

Mr. Gburekhan's trips, and the last month by another U.N. mission, aimed to secure Israel's compliance with the U.N. resolution demanding the immediate safe return of the Palestinians.

All but one minister in Mr. Rabin's cabinet said Friday that 10 of the 18 ministers would ask a compromise allowing the victims' early return. But it did not identify the ministers and he interviewed publicly, even a government decision.

Environment Minister Yossi Sarid of the leftist Meretz Party said he opposed the victims' return but was sure Mr. Rabin would find a way out of the crisis.

"Even without returning the portees, there are still various ways to remove the international pressure on Israel," Mr. Sarid said.

"Many people are waiting for a supreme court to solve the problem," said Ran Cohen, a senator from the Meretz Party. But I prefer for our govern-

ment to be strong and courageous enough to make a decision that will solve the problem," Mr. Cohen said on Israel Radio.

Israel's cabinet meanwhile stood firm on its refusal to allow the Palestinians stranded in Lebanon to return to the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"Any solution will be based on the original decision that those terrorists that were temporarily removed will not be returned," Health Minister Haim Ramon told reporters after the weekly cabinet meeting.

Addressing the cabinet, Mr. Rabin expressed confidence that President Clinton would continue a U.S. policy of protecting Israel from U.N. sanctions, cabinet sources said.

A GOOD amateur musician will always be worth more than a bad professional. Some rare amateurs even manage to achieve a level of excellence beyond the reach of most professionals. The trouble is that, almost by definition, they tend to keep their talents to themselves.

A case in point is that of Fanny Hensel (1805-1847). Had she not been Felix Mendelssohn's elder sister, it is unlikely that anyone today would be interested in either her life or her compositions. Such oblivion would have been unfair; she was an admirable person, and her 400-odd

compositions that have come down to us have much more than mere curiosity value.

During her childhood Fanny was given as thorough a musical education as her brother, and each relied on the other's advice. Even by the time Felix had become a mature composer, her temperament and experience continued to make her an excellent mentor.

But Fanny could not exploit

her talents further, since her father did not want her to take up a musical career. And Felix, although he admired his sister's pianistic talents and her compositions (it is possible he published some of them disguised under his own name), was of the same opinion, though for different reasons.

Fanny was understandably rather bitter about this. Her husband Wilhelm Hensel, on the

By Gérard Condé

other hand, did all he could to encourage his wife to exploit her creativity, with the result that she not only composed a large number of Lieder, but organised private concerts that were enthusiastically attended by Berlin's musical elite.

It is very hard, over a century and a half later, to determine who was responsible for what looks very much like a half-wasted life. It cannot have been easy for a woman belonging to the German bourgeoisie of the time, however open and liberal it may have seemed, to become emancipated.

Fanny apparently lacked neither character nor determination.

But it was no doubt difficult being sister to a musician so extraordinarily and precociously gifted as Felix Mendelssohn. In a sense, agreeing to take second place to someone who was bound to surpass her anyway was her only decent option.

In 1847 Fanny collapsed while conducting a rehearsal of a work by her brother and died shortly afterwards; Felix himself, worn out by a punishing work schedule, but also robbed of the one person who understood his music better than anyone, died a few months later.

It was Fanny's son, Sebastian Hensel, who assembled the fami-

ly archives and wrote the first biography of his mother and uncle. There are many documentary sources concerning the Mendelssohns for musicologists to draw on, but Hensel's "Famille Mendelssohn," published in 1879, remains a goldmine of information.

Much new material surfaced recently with the publication by the American Pendragon Press of Fanny's correspondence edited by Marcia Citron. The recent publication of Francoise Tillard's "Fanny Mendelssohn" avoids the shrill feminism and oversimplification that unfortunately mar many such rehabilitations — Le Monde.

# A tale of two Mendelssohns

## CENTRO CULTURAL ESPAÑOL

المركز الثقافي الإسباني

### ANNOUNCES

The start of an intensive Spanish language course lasting for one and a half months. Registration for the course starts Monday January 25, 1993.

Course starts Monday February 1, 1993. Classes: Saturdays, Mondays, Tuesdays, Wednesdays and Thursdays, two hours a day from 5 to 7 p.m. and during the month of Ramadan, classes will be held between 3 and 5 p.m.

For more information, call 610858, 624049

Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabel Amman, 3rd Circle, open daily except for Fridays and Sundays from 9-1 and from 3-7 p.m.

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Al Orthodoxi will have to win Tuesday to force a third deciding match

## 1st Division Basketball Championship Final stage begins today Orthodoxi, Ahli clash Tuesday

By Aileen Bannayan  
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Four matches remain in the First Division Basketball Championship which comes to an end Tuesday when Jordan's basketball powerhouses — Al Ahli and Al Orthodoxi — clash at the Sports Palace Court at Al Hussein Youth City.

Al Ahli now lead the standings with 26 points, followed by all-time rivals Al Orthodoxi one point behind. Titleholders, Al Orthodoxi, will seek to defeat Al Ahli and force a deciding match, while Al Ahli will aim to end all speculation by scoring their second win over their rivals to win back the title they won in 1990.

Although Al Orthodoxi lost 68-65 to Al Ahli in the first round of the championship, both teams have shown no mercy easily overcoming their opponents by scoring over the 100 point mark — a clear indicator that any serious threat of their top-two positions is still far-fetched.

Three matches will be played Monday as Al Ahli and Al Jazireh play the now relegated Homentmen and Al Abbasi,

while Al Watani clash against Al Hussein.

Al Jazireh have this year secured third place after scoring a crucial win over Al Hussein. Al Jazireh, third place winners last year could not compete for an advanced standing this season after they pulled out of a match — and consequently lost a point — early in the competition.

Al Hussein will seek to defeat Al Watani to secure fourth place, while Al Jazireh and Al Ahli will have no problem overcoming Homentmen and Al Abbasi.

Al Watani, on the other hand will try to stage an upset by defeating Al Hussein

whereby Al Hussein, Al Jazireh and Al Watani will tie in overall points giving Al Jazireh the chance to better their standing based on score difference.

Meanwhile the Jordan Times has learnt that the Friends Of Basketball (FOB) committee has been regrouped after a long absence. FOB members were lately seen closely monitoring most matches in order to present the Jordan Basketball Federation with the latest statistics concerning all players.

The first issue of the FOB's monthly bulletin will appear Tuesday and will be distributed to basketball fans attending the final match of the season.

### Standings prior to final round

Team	W	L	PF	SA	PTS
Al Ahli	13	1	1360	647	26
Al Orthodoxi	12	1	1690	828	25
Al Jazireh	8	5	1028	974	21
Al Hussein	6	7	916	1052	19
Al Watani	6	7	958	1007	18
Homentmen	5	8	797	1045	18
Al Abbasi	1	12	721	1264	14
Al Hussein	1	12	705	1358	14

## Klinsmann and Voeller strike again; Manchester United keep lead

PARIS (Agencies) — German World Cup strikers Jurgen Klinsmann and Rudi Voeller struck again Saturday to give Monaco and Marseille victories which kept the French title race wide open.

Klinsmann, the cool executioner, hit his sixth goal in a fortnight as he led Monaco to a comfortable 2-0 win over Le Havre, keeping his side a point clear of Nantes at the top of the league.

Voeller, hat-trick hero just two weeks ago, hit two more in a tight-fought 2-1 win by Marseille over Lyon but his late winner was hotly contested by the visitors who claimed he scored with his hand.

The young Nantes side maintained their rhythm with a 2-0 victory over Nimes, young striker Nicolas Ouedj getting both goals.

Paris St Germain, impressive 2-0 winners in Caen Friday, stayed three points off the pace with Marseille, leaving Auxerre the only contenders to lose ground. They lost 1-0 in Bordeaux to a Zinedine Zidane goal to go five points adrift.

Monaco's form of late has prompted many observers to suggest they are the team who could interrupt Marseille's series of four successive titles.

Klinsmann gave them the lead in the 35th minute, his 14th goal of the season, and winger Christian Perez wrapped things up just eight minutes later.

Marseille got off to a great start Velodrome when Voeller netted in the fourth minute but their surprisingly fragile defence let in Romarin Billong for an equaliser in the 24th.

The visitors seemed set to grab a point until Voeller's controversial second eight minutes from time, a goal which prompted Lyon trainer Raymond Dommenech to race off the bench in rage as he called for it to be disallowed.

Only 17 goals were scored in the 10 matches played, the worst tally of the season, one less than the previous low set last week.

In British soccer, teenage Welsh winger Ryan Giggs scored 14 minutes from the end as mighty Manchester United edged lowly Brighton 1-0 Saturday to gain the fifth round of Football Association Cup.

Playing without injured Frenchman Eric Cantona and his strike partner Mark Hughes, United fielded a weakened attack but still had too much power for the division two team and 19-year-old Giggs netted the winner.

Saturday's fourth round games

did not produce a single upset. Second division Hartlepool, which knocked out Crystal Palace in the third round yet is struggling to avoid bankruptcy, lost 1-0 at Premier League team Sheffield United.

Tranmere, which is gunning for promotion to the top flight for the first time in its 108 year history, led Premier League team Ipswich into the 68th minute after former Scottish international winger Pat Nevin scored.

Tranmere also had knocked Premier League Oldham out in the third round but, this time, goals by Jason Dozzell and Bulgarian striker Bontcho Guechev turned the game around for an Ipswich triumph.

## Graf, Sabatini advance while Seles has a rest

MELBOURNE (R) — Monica Seles watched her three main rivals win through to the quarter-finals of the Australian Open tennis championships Sunday but must be licking her lips at the prospect of playing any one of them in the final.

The world number one, whose game was washed out by rain, has been in sparkling form in the year's first Grand Slam event, while number two Steffi Graf was far from convincing in her 6-3 6-3 win over Bulgarian teenager Magdalena Maleeva.

Number three seed Gabriela Sabatini also looked tentative against Australia's last hope, Nicole Provis, saving two set points in the first set before winning her way through to the last eight 7-5 6-3.

Only fourth seed Arantxa Sanchez Vicario produced anything like her real form but even she had to survive a nightmare first set against Germany's Anke Huber.

Graf, who played her match against Maleeva before heavy rain wrought havoc with the playing schedule, had trouble with her service throughout and, starved of match practice, had hoped for a better workout.

"I expected a tougher match... but both our serves didn't work very well, that's why there were so many breaks," said Graf.

The German number two seed is likely to face a tough quarter-final against American teenager Jennifer Capriati whose match against 14th seed Katerina Maleeva was one of those lost through Sunday's rain.

Sabatini playing well enough to win the event but once again her fragile service nearly let her down.

She dropped serve twice in the first set and, for unforgotten errors on important points by the Australian, would probably have been stretched to three sets.

"I think I am getting much more confident, the serve was going much better in the second set," Sabatini said.

Mentally I am getting much better, I felt mentally tough today," she said.

The Argentine will face Mary Pierce in the quarter-finals after the Frenchwoman had the quickest win of the day, a 6-0 6-0 victory over American Gigi Fernandez.

Men's top seed Jim Courier completed the first week without



Stefan Edberg of Sweden, playing with a back injury, leans on the net at the end of his match. Edberg later announced he was pulling out of the doubles (AFP photo)

dropping a set when he motored into the last eight with a 6-1 6-3 7-6 win over 15th seed Sergi Bruguera.

On a wet Melbourne evening, the slow-starting Spaniard might have had more success wielding a rolled-up umbrella against Courier in the first set but had at least a levelled respectability by the end.

The first set lasted just 22 minutes and although the defending champion appeared to relax slightly, he was well pleased by the time he returned to the locker-room.

"This is definitely a step in the right direction...this is the way I was hoping I was going to play," he said.

Courier now has two days off before his next match, likely to be against Czech Peter Korda, two sets up in an unfinished match against American Chris Garner.

"Now's a great time to get my body ready for the push," he said.

The only other man definitely through to the last eight is German Michael Stich, still in the tournament after a week in which he has been fined \$2,500 for assorted ill-tempered comments. "I haven't played my best but I'm still in the quarter-finals," said Stich after serving 22 aces in a 6-7 6-4 6-4 6-0 win over Denmark's Kenneth Carlsen.

### Edberg pulls out of doubles

Stefan Edberg's familiar injury jinx at the Australian Open threatens to strike again after the world number two withdrew from the doubles with a bad back Sunday.

The Swede, forced to default through injury at Flinders Park in both 1989 and 1990, had claimed

his back was not bothering him but subsequently pulled out of his doubles commitments with Dutchman Jan Siemerink.

His coach Tony Pickard issued a statement saying: "Stefan has withdrawn from the doubles competition due to a lower back spasm he sustained late in the match yesterday. On medical advice he has withdrawn from the doubles only."

"He will continue to receive treatment and we are hopeful he will be able to take his place on court tomorrow."

Asked about possible back trouble after his third round match against Amos Mansdorf, the Swede replied: "You have good eyes. Actually it's not too bad...it's very good. It comes with age you know."

It now appears more serious and Edberg's opponent in the last 16, Frenchman Arnaud Boetsch, and American Pete Sampras will be among those most interested in Edberg's medical bulletins.

Sampras is in the same half of the draw as Edberg and the pair are seeded to meet in the semi-finals, a confrontation regarded as one of the potential classic matches at this year's tournament.

Edberg, 27 last Tuesday, won two Australian Open titles at its previous venue, Kooyong, but has yet to repeat that success at Flinders Park.

In 1989 he was forced to scratch from the quarter-finals with a back complaint and was struck down again the following year. Having reached the final against Ivan Lendl, he had to retire in the third set with a pulled stomach muscle.

Edberg, the world's number-one ranked player for 12 weeks in 1992, is merely the latest top player to be suffering from wear and tear.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY JANUARY 25, 1993

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Keep abreast of your movements around the house today, and pay particular attention to where you put things — your keys, your foot...you can be "tripped up" by absentmindedness, or by loose electrical wiring underfoot.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Early in the day invite friends and acquaintances into your home with whom you can enjoy yourself and gain desired information in the evening.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) A fine day to get whatever communications that require thought and expert knowledge from you and send messages off before the sun goes down.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Consider well just what your material aims are and then seek out the advice from successful financial and business persons who can be helpful.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) The daytime can be spent in gathering into yourself the personal conditions you must desire to have about you, improving personal appearance.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This day can be utilized to mull over your secret ambitions and to decide upon a campaign of action to gain them which can be put in motion tonight.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) You have a good day to plan

the friends and acquaintances you wish to see over the days ahead and to communicate and make engagements with them.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) Complete whatever outside vocational interests claim your attention and then let a bigging know of your special capabilities and talents.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) A new approach at how best to improve your growth and development is available to you now if you are on the quiver and accept in the right way.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) It may not seem romantic but you can enjoy today by getting rid of whatever is holding you back and planning a new more interesting activities.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) Don't be upset because associates today seem to be emotional but be understanding and curb your reactivity and you reach a new accord.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Whatever you have in mind where finishing up in the days tasks are concerned should be done in a highly efficient manner with real operative skill.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Much conversation with partners can find you and then reaching a meeting of minds which will not be possible if resistance exists between you.

## THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

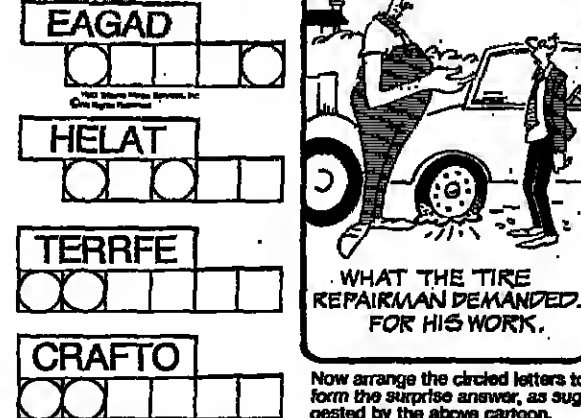


"My wife sent me here because I have trouble seeing her point of view."

## JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME by Henri Arnold

Unscramble these four Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.



Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

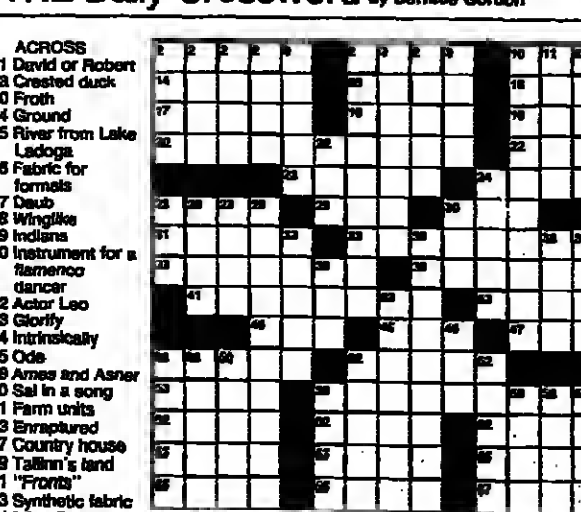
Print answer here:

(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumble: MANGY AGATE LIMPO PRYING

Answer: The worst thing about going to the dentist — THE "PAYIN"

## THE Daily Crossword by Bernice Gordon



Across: 1 David or Robert, 2 Crested duck, 10 Froth, 14 Ground, 15 River from Lake Ladoga, 16 Fabric formals, 17 Dumb, 18 Whistle, 19 Indians, 20 Instrument for a Ramonoco dance, 22 Actor Leo, 23 Glorify, 24 Intrinsically, 25 Ode, 26 Ames and Asner, 27 Sal in a song, 31 Farm units, 32 Enraptured, 37 Country house, 39 Tallinn's land, 41 "Fiona", 43 Synthetic fabric, 44 Mine find, 45 Pothole, 47 Sobriquet, 48 Gals, 51 Let out, 52 Oak film, 54 Philharmonic instrument, 59 Ancient Asian land, 60 Came to roost, 61 Farm units, 62 Der — (Adverser), 63 Director, 64 Philadelphia pro, 65 Digits, 66 Driving hazards, 67 Toleraed.

Down: 1 Gals or slag end, 2 Field hero, 3 Utah city, 4 Gore, 5 Pileate, 6 Pterocarpus, 7 TV's Gilbert, 8 Maurice or Lynda, 9 China or silver end, 10 Instrument with valves, 11 Western, 12 Prayer words, 13 Middle, in law, 21 Rubber tree, 24 Trestle dish, 25 Oceanic abbr., 26 Pterocarpus name, 27 Part of CED, 28 Instruments for music teachers, 30 Soldiers, 32 Brands, 34 Prolonged feuds, 35 Resort in Sicily, 36 Fer —, 38 Reverence, 40 Tankard contents, 42 Making instrument, 43 "The rumpers", 46 Dishonest one, 49 Greening, 50 Vitrified, 51 Case for papers, 52 Vein, 1925-25, 54 Bowing baby, 55 Cutter or hatch, 56 Jason's ship, 57 Fr. commune, 58 Piece for birds.

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**NORTH**  
♠ 8 7  
♥ A 8 4 2  
♦ Q 8 3  
♣ 10 9 4

**WEST** ♠ 9 5 2  
♥ A J 10  
♦ K J 10 7 5 3  
♣ Q 6

**EAST** ♠ A J 10  
♥ K J 10 9 4 2  
♦ 7 6  
♣ A K Q J 5

**The bidding:**  
South West North East  
1 ♠ 2 ♠ 3 ♠  
4 ♠ Pass 4 NT Pass  
5 ♠ Pass Pass Pass  
Opener leads: Six of

No matter where you travel, you will always find a bridge game and be welcome. The recent Spring North American Championships in Pasadena, Calif., attracted players from nine countries: Australia, Brazil, Great Britain, Germany, India, Israel, Iceland, Poland and Sweden. Four members of Britain's interna-

tional women's team caused some upsets in the Vanderbilt Knockout Team Championship, including a win over the second-seeded team by the narrow margin of 3 International Match Points.

Sitting East-West on this deal were Nicola Smith and Pat Davies. In a competitive auction, South's four-heart cue-bid showed a powerful hand and North's four no trump asked South to pick a suit. The final contract of five clubs was eminently reasonable although, as the cards lie, four spades could be made against any defense. Try it.

Pat Davies selected her singleton diamond for the opening lead. Dummy's queen was covered by the king and taken with the ace. Declarer crossed to the table with the ten of clubs to take a diamond discard on the ace of hearts, then led a spade. East followed with the ten and declarer's queen won.

Next, declarer exited with a spade. In with the jack, East cashed the king of diamonds on which West discarded a spade. East continued with the ace of spades and that was that. West was able to ruff with the nine of clubs for the setting trick.

## Peanuts



## Andy Capp



## Mutt'n' Jeff





## Financial Markets

### Foreign Exchange Market Summary (January 18 — January 22, 1993)

AMMAN — The dollar dropped significantly last week, hurt by fading expectations that the wide gap between U.S. interest rates and European interest rates will narrow in the near term. The U.S. unit thus ended the week in New York at 1.59 marks, its lowest level of 1993. The dollar retreated in a technical correction Monday when expectations of concerted interest rate cuts in Germany and other EMS countries failed to materialize over the weekend. The thin trading volume accentuated, however, the dollar's decline, as most banks in New York were closed for Martin Luther King's day.

During the rest of the week, market participants' attention became focused on the issue of the timing of convergence between U.S. and German interest rates, which was becoming increasingly uncertain. Apart from various remarks by German officials suggesting that inflation rates were still too high to permit an interest rate cut in Germany, market participants were also uncertain about the new U.S. domestic economic plan of Mr. Clinton's administration, including the near term direction of U.S. interest rates. All this uncertainty gave dominance to technical factors and short term considerations, and the dollar, thus, continued to decline steadily. News of developments in the Gulf, on the other hand, failed to attract safe-haven demand for the dollar.

Further waves of dollar selling materialized at the end of the week, spurred by comments by a Bundesbank official that a German interest rate cut was still to early, and accentuated later on when the U.S. unit fell below the psychologically significant 1.60 marks and 1.5975 marks.

#### Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin

Currency	Rate	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.686	0.688
British Pound	1.0490	1.0542
Deutsche Mark	0.4309	0.4331
Swiss Franc	0.4699	0.4722
French Franc	0.1274	0.1280
Japanese Yen*	0.5380	0.5507
Dutch Guilder	0.3832	0.3851
Swedish Krona	0.0961	0.0966
Italian Lira*	0.0469	0.0471
Belgian Franc	0.02094	0.02104

#### AMMAN FINANCIAL REPORT

COMPANY NAME	TRADING PRICE	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	CHANGING CLOSING PRICE
AMMAN NATIONAL BANK	385.500	377.000	379.000
AMMAN COMMERCIAL BANK	385.500	377.000	379.000
AMMAN INVESTMENT BANK	385.500	377.000	379.000
AMMAN TRADING BANK	385.500	377.000	379.000
AMMAN DEVELOPMENT BANK	385.500	377.000	379.000
AMMAN INDUSTRIAL BANK	385.500	377.000	379.000
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## Yugoslav leader says Croatian Air Force, navy attacking Serbs

GENEVA (R) — Yugoslav President Dobrica Cosic Sunday accused the Croatian Air Force and navy of bombarding Serb-populated areas in Croatia, saying a "veritable war" was under way.

He told reporters the fighting, which broke out Friday, was undermining efforts in Geneva to negotiate a peace settlement in Bosnia-Herzegovina — wedged between Yugoslavia and southern Croatia.

"Croatia is using its air force and navy and is bombarding populated areas in the Serb Republic of Krajina," declared Mr. Cosic after a meeting with international mediators Cyrus Vance and Lord Owen.

"This seriously undermines and complicates the peace effort here... There can be no peace in Bosnia-Herzegovina unless there is peace in the United Nations-protected areas in Krajina."

But Mr. Cosic indicated there were no immediate plans to send Yugoslav forces to join local Serbs resisting the Croatian army in the region, close to the Adriatic coast.

"We shall proceed in a peaceful way to try to get a resolution," he said. Yugoslavia hoped its appeal to the U.N. Security Council for a Croatian withdrawal would bring a quick pull-out, he added.

In Zadar, a major Croatian port facing the Krajina region inland, a Croatian government official denied planes were being used in the Krajina incursion but he declined to comment on whether navy guns were firing.

"I wish we had them (planes) to use. But we wouldn't waste Croatia's only two (Soviet-built) MIG fighters to hit Krajina," the official, in charge of liaison with U.N. peacekeeping forces in the region, told Reuters by telephone.

Croatia's naval resources are also deemed to be small.

The Yugoslav Navy bombarded Croatian Adriatic ports after the republic seceded from the Serbian-led federation in 1991, and Croatia managed to seize a small number of ships.

But the number of vessels it acquired in the conflict was small and the size of its navy now is believed to be modest.

Lieutenant General Satish Nambiar, commander of U.N. peacekeeping forces in ex-Yugoslavia, said Saturday Croatia was not known to be using any planes in its Krajina incursion.

Serb forces Sunday shelled the strategically vital Maslenica Bridge area in southwest Croatia, Croatian Radio reported.

The bridge is a vital link between the north and south Croatian coastline, cut off by the Serbs in fighting which ended in a fragile U.N.-sponsored truce a year ago. It was the main reason for the incursion of Croatian forces Friday into the U.N.-controlled area.

The Croats were trying to hold off the Serbs while securing a wider zone around the bridge, the radio reported.

The report could not be independently verified as Croat authorities were prohibiting United Nations troops, European Community envoys and foreign journalists from the combat area.

Croatian Radio said all was quiet around the Zemunik Airport area close to the port of Zadar, where a French soldier was seriously wounded Saturday when Croat forces shelled U.N. peacekeeping positions.

Serbian Television, quoting Serb military sources in Krajina, said all was quiet during the night along the entire front line stretching from the Maslenica Bridge to the Perica Dam in the north.

The Belgrade-based news agency Tanjug said seven soldiers and civilians were killed in the fighting between Benkovac and Zadar Saturday.

It added that Croat forces were amassing along the border with Krajina.

Croatian Radio said the condition of the French soldier critically wounded Saturday was no longer life threatening. He was to be taken back to France to recover, sources at Zadar's main hospital told Reuters.

The authorities of Croatian northern port of Rijeka denied a Tanjug report that a Croatian ship laden with arms and ammunition for forces around Maslenica was turned back to its home port by NATO ships patrolling the Adriatic Sea.

"Croats could use land routes to transport weapons by truck so why should we go by ship and risk being caught?" the port captain told Reuters.

Meanwhile international mediator Lord Owen said Sunday participants to peace talks in Geneva on the former Yugoslavia would not give up and would stay as long as it was necessary.

"We are going to stay here as long as it takes," Lord Owen said on British Broadcasting Corporation Television.

"We are not going to give up these negotiations. We are not going to have a recess unless we reach a brick wall, unless it is clear we cannot make any progress."

Lord Owen and fellow mediator Cyrus Vance held emergency talks Saturday with the presidents of Croatia, Serbia, Montenegro and the rump Yugoslavia on the crisis which erupted when Croatian troops stormed into the neutral U.N.-monitored area inhabited mainly by Serbs.

"So long as we can see progress we will stick at it hour after hour. The key participants are here. We intend to stay here and we intend to get a settlement, but whether we can make it, I just don't know," he said, adding:

"If we find that one party is blocking us we will go to the Security Council and put the issues straight out in front of the world and perhaps say some of the things we have bitten back over the past months."

Lord Owen said: "Intervention on the ground is an immensely difficult option and it will put at risk humanitarian effort... the idea that you can intervene without threatening that humanitarian effort is cloud cuckoo land."

He said he hoped that if a peace settlement was achieved, British troops and others would be prepared to change their role from a humanitarian one to a genuine peacekeeping mission.

"What we would want them to do is to be prepared to change the mandate, become part of the peacekeeping and monitoring of the ceasefire and cessation of hostilities."

U.N. Secretary-General Boutros Gbali Friday deplored Croatia's "unilateral military action" in sending troops over the year-old U.N. truce line into Krajina region and said U.N. forces were trying to prevent any escalation.

A statement issued through a spokesman said the Croatian action was a setback to efforts by the U.N. Protection Force (UNPROFOR) to achieve a peaceful transfer of control to Croatia.

"UNPROFOR is taking all steps in its power to prevent the situation from escalating," it added.

In Bonn, Foreign Minister Klaus Kinkel condemned Saturday the offensive by Croatian troops on the edge of Krajina region.

"I condemn and regret... the push by Croatian troops into Krajina," he said in a statement.

"The outbreak of military violence in the Krajina area controlled by United Nations blue helmet troops is a setback in the search for a political solution to the conflict in former Yugoslavia."

Friends and colleagues from the cinema world — as well as dozens of reporters and photographers — gathered at the church overlooking Lake Geneva for a funeral service before her burial in the Tolochenaz Cemetery.

Ms. Hepburn, whose doe-like beauty and dry wit captivated audiences during the 1950s and 1960s, abandoned her film career in her early 40s to bring up her two sons in Switzerland and later campaign for hungry children in the Third World.

Her cancer was discovered last summer after she made a visit to Somalia as an emissary for the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF) to draw world attention to the famine there.

Her first husband and fellow screen star Mel Ferrer, whom she divorced in 1968, and her two sons Sean and Luca followed the coffin into the simple Protestant Church after it arrived in a grey hearse.

Among other mourners were Roger Moore, star of some James Bond films, and Hubert Giverny who heads the Paris fashion house for whom the Belgian-born Hepburn was once a model.

Huge bouquets and wreaths of flowers lay outside the church, where 83-year-old retired Pastor Maurice Endiguer who performed her marriage to Ferrer 35 years ago presided over the funeral service.

Most of the 1,650 people of Tolochenaz, nestled in vineyards some 15 kilometres to the west of Lausanne at the foot of the Jura Mountains, were on the streets in sombre clothes to join the homage to their famous neighbour.

Villagers paid tribute to her role in local life. "She was so natural, so humble," said one woman interviewed on Swiss Television. "I had great admiration for her. She was no snob. She made small talk with everyone."

The mayor of Tolochenaz, Pierre-Alain Mercier, agreed, adding: "She chose this region to have peace. And she had it right to the end."

Other international film stars, including Richard Burton and Charlie Chaplin, chose to spend their last years in this scenic, wine-growing region of Switzerland.

The tranquility and Swiss respect for privacy, coupled with easy access to Geneva Airport, have made such towns attractive to stars seeking respite from the public eye.



**SUPPORTING FOREIGNERS:** Participants in the largest demonstration in Vienna since 1945 light their candles near the city centre Saturday as part of a protest against a referendum in Austria which would restrict the number of foreigners living in the country. Over 200,000 people took part in the protest against the referendum called by the right-wing "Liberal Party" (AFP photo)

## Hundreds mourn Audrey Hepburn

TOLOCHENAZ, Switzerland (R) — Hundreds of mourners gathered in this small Swiss village Sunday to pay tribute to film star Audrey Hepburn, who died last week from cancer at the age of 63.

Friends and colleagues from the cinema world — as well as dozens of reporters and photographers — gathered at the church overlooking Lake Geneva for a funeral service before her burial in the Tolochenaz Cemetery.

Ms. Hepburn, whose doe-like beauty and dry wit captivated audiences during the 1950s and 1960s, abandoned her film career in her early 40s to bring up her two sons in Switzerland and later campaign for hungry children in the Third World.

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## WORLD NEWS IN BRIEF

### Russia keeps space programme alive

MOSCOW (R) — Russia launched two cosmonauts into orbit aboard a Soyuz spacecraft Sunday, keeping alive a space programme in urgent need of financial support from the West. The Soyuz TM-16, in the white-blue-red livery of Russia, roared into a blue sky from the Baikonur launch pad on frozen steppe land in the former Soviet republic of Kazakhstan. The launch was shown live on television. ITAR-TASS News Agency quoted mission control in Kaliningrad, near Moscow, as saying all systems were working normally and the cosmonauts were well. The spacecraft was scheduled to link up with the Mir orbital space station Tuesday using, for the first time, a newly-installed manual docking system rather than the previous automatic mechanism which caused trouble on an expedition in 1991.

### 28 die in Pakistan bomb blasts

HYDERABAD, Pakistan (AP) — Shops and offices shut down in a one-day general strike Sunday to protest two bomb blasts that killed at least 28 people. The blasts occurred late Saturday within minutes of each other, ripping through a residential neighbourhood and jolting people from their sleep and damaging a hotel in Hyderabad's old walled section. At least 100 people were wounded, many of them seriously, police said. No one claimed responsibility for the blasts, but police said they suspected Jeay Sindh, a militant group that is demanding the creation of a separate nation in southern Sindh province. Hyderabad is the second largest city in southern Sindh and is about 150 miles (240 kilometres) north of the provincial capital, Karachi.

### FBI director fights for job

WASHINGTON (R) — Embattled Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI) Director William Sessions have vowed to fight to keep his job and said personal animosity from former Attorney General William Barr may be at the root of allegations of ethical violations against Mr. Sessions. "I am not ashamed. My conduct was not improper. My conduct was not unethical," Mr. Sessions told a group of reporters in his office. Last Friday, in one of his last acts as chief law enforcement officer for former President George Bush, Mr. Barr released a Justice Department report that accused Mr. Sessions of serious ethical lapses, strongly criticised the FBI director and ordered him to take remedial action. Mr. Sessions said one of the allegations could be supported by Mr. Barr said the evidence was overwhelming and called the explanations for Mr. Sessions' conduct "wholly unpersuasive."

### Jackson supports return to Aristide

PORT-AU-PRINCE (R) — The Rev. Jesse Jackson began a visit to Haiti Friday by vowing that democracy will be restored and exiled President Jean-Bertrand Aristide will be returned to power. "Democracy will be restored, Aristide will be returned, and education and health care will come," the U.S. civil rights leader declared at the start of his first visit to this politically-troubled Caribbean country. Rev. Jackson, who discussed Haiti with Secretary of State Warren Christopher before coming here, said that during his 48-hour visit he hoped to meet church, labour and military leaders to help find a peaceful solution to the crisis that has gripped the impoverished country since the 1991 military coup toppled the democratically-elected Aristide.

### Man held for Downing Street bomb

LONDON (R) — British police charged an unemployed man in connection with an Irish Republic Army (IRA) car bombing near Prime Minister John Major's office in central London last October. Patrick Oliver Murphy, 52, of West London was also charged with abduction. He was arrested Wednesday and will appear in court Monday. No one was injured on Oct. 30 when the bomb exploded in a taxi that had been hijacked at gunpoint by two men. The blast ripped the car apart and shattered windows in nearby government buildings. The IRA, which is fighting to oust Britain from Northern Ireland, claimed responsibility and said the bombing had been carried out by one of its active service units.

### Viennese march in support of foreigners

VIENNA (R) — More than 200,000 people gathered in Vienna to protest against an anti-foreigner petition being organised by the right-wing Freedom Party, the organisers said. "This is a day unlike any other. We are taking part in the biggest demonstration in the history of the second republic," demonstration organiser Andre Heller told a crowd gathered before the Hofburg Imperial Palace. Mr. Heller, an artist who heads a platform of celebrities and artists campaigning to promote tolerance in Austria. Said the turnout was twice as high as he had expected. Mr. Heller said 250,000 had attended the rally.

## Life at a standstill in Armenian capital

YEREVAN, Armenia (Agencies) — Public transport came to a standstill, telephones stopped working and lights went out in the Armenian capital because of the bombing of a gas pipeline.

The pipeline was blown up before dawn Saturday by "unknown persons" in neighbouring Georgia, the Armenian government said.

The explosion destroyed five pillars supporting the pipeline over a river in Georgia's Marnepol'sky district, populated mostly by ethnic Azerbaijanis, the government said.

Some news reports, however, said the explosion was the result of an accident.

The pipeline was the only one that delivered Turkmen gas to besieged Armenia. The republic is fighting with neighbouring Azerbaijan for control of Nagorno-Karabakh, a mountainous, Armenian enclave within Azerbaijan.

Azerbaijan's blockade of rail traffic and fuel deliveries to Armenia, as well as civil and ethnic wars in Georgia, have severely disrupted the Armenian economy. All but three of Armenia's 360 industrial facilities had to be shut down, schools and universities were closed for the winter and power blackouts have become common.

The Turkmen gas was used to fuel the Yerevan power plant that supplied power.

Following the blast, the metro and electricity-powered trolley buses came to a standstill in Yerevan, a city of 1.7 million people. Most of the telephones and the city radio station were silent, and apartment houses were left without light.

Even before the blast, there has been no heating in Yerevan. Temperatures at Yerevan homes Saturday reached a low 3 C (37 F), with a freezing — 10 C (14 F) outside.

Meanwhile, sporadic fighting and artillery duels were reported Friday and Saturday in Nagorno-Karabakh and some areas of the border separating Armenia and Azerbaijan.

## 2 Russian troops killed in Georgia

Meanwhile, Georgian leader Eduard Shevardnadze Saturday expressed regret at the killing of two Russian servicemen during an attack on their ammunition depot in the Georgian capital, Tbilisi.

Georgian irregulars raided the depot in the suburbs of Tbilisi Friday, further straining tense relations with Moscow.

The attack came hours before a Moscow delegation arrived for talks on the future of ex-Soviet troops stationed there, now under Russian command.

"I express my deep regret about what has happened," local television quoted Mr. Shevardnadze as saying. "The interests of Georgia demand that this crime be solved."

statement following last year's bloody Los Angeles race riots.

Eastwood told reporters after accepting his award that he had pondered over Unforgiven for eight years before making it.

He was finally persuaded to do so, he said, following the Los Angeles riots, which were sparked by the acquittal of four white police officers accused of beating black motorist Rodney King.

"I thought it was time to look at the effects of violence on the perpetrator as well as the victim. I wanted to tell young people that violence was no longer fashionable," Eastwood said.

Gene Hackman won Best Supporting Actor for his role in Unforgiven.

## Scent Of A Woman triumphs at Golden Globes ceremony

LOS ANGELES (R) — Scent Of A Woman starring Al Pacino was the surprise winner at the Golden Globe Awards ceremony Saturday night, taking three of the top honours.

The film is based on an uplifting story of a blind man and a young college student.

A Few Good Men, the military courtroom drama starring Tom Cruise, was the surprise loser. Despite nominations for five awards, it came away with none as the Hollywood Foreign Press Association presented its statuettes.

The Universal Pictures production of Scent Of A Woman took the Best Dramatic Motion Picture Award, as well as Best Dramatic Actor for Pacino and Best Screenplay for Bo Goldman.

The Player, a cutting satire on the inner workings of the Hollywood movie industry, won the Best Musical or Comedy Picture Award and garnered a second award for its star Tim Robbins, who received a Globe for Best Actor in a Musical or Comedy.

Pacino, after accepting his award, told reporters: "The role I played was what we call in the trade, 'actor proof'. No one, not even me, could mess it up. It was perfectly written."

"It is very rare that you get a chance to play such a role."

The loudest applause of the evening was reserved for Clint Eastwood, director and star of the western Unforgiven.

Eastwood, the sharpshooting, tight-lipped king of modern-day westerns, won the Golden Globe for Best Director for Unforgiven, a cowboy movie which decries violence.

He said he was inspired to make the film as an anti-violence

## Khmer Rouge 'will not disrupt' elections

PHNOM PENH (AP) — Australian Foreign Minister Oareth Evans said Sunday he was certain the Khmer Rouge guerrillas would not try to disrupt Cambodia's elections in May because the world community would react strongly.

"The Khmer Rouge are working on the assumption that they can achieve their objective without breaking down the electoral process," Mr. Evans told reporters after a three-day visit for talks with U.N. and Cambodian officials. "They want to protect what they have."

The guerrilla group is believed to control 15 to 20 per cent of Cambodia's territory and about 10 per cent of the population. But Mr. Evans said he felt the Khmer Rouge lacked popular support and would not stand in the way of peace.

"Broadly, I believe this process is still on track and I am very optimistic about bringing the process home and creating a durable peace in the country," said Mr. Evans, who drew up many basic concepts of the peace plan.

Later Sunday, during a stopover in Bangkok, Mr. Evans said the Khmer Rouge would not risk disrupting the balloting because that would expose it to great international opposition and possibly internationally supported military action. The group simply does not have the capability to resume war, he said.

By staying out of the election, the Khmer Rouge could retain territory and population that it otherwise might lose if Khmer Rouge zones were opened to the polls, Mr. Evans said.

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO plans for peacekeeping missions in cooperation with its former Warsaw Pact enemies will include options for combat, effectively extending the alliance's security umbrella beyond its borders for the first time.

NATO officials told Reuters planning was at an early stage but it could not be restricted to the traditional idea of using lightly-armed troops deployed with the consent of all warring parties.

The 16-nation North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO), traditionally limited to the defence of member states, agreed last month to take on new missions to try and prevent more Yugoslav-style conflicts in Europe from erupting.

The alliance plans to involve Eastern European nations and former Soviet republics in peacekeeping as we understand it for years are probably over," said

U.S. General John Shalikashvili, NATO's top commander in Europe.

"Prudence dictates that in our planning we take that aspect (of combat) into account," he told Reuters last week.

Germany's armed forces chief, General Klaus Naumann, said recently that peacekeeping now covered a whole range of military operations beyond the deployment of U.N.-style "blue berets" — right up to fully-fledged combat missions.

Gen. Shalikashvili said NATO was now working on plans for rules of engagement, training and the types of forces needed for the new missions.

These would have to be approved by NATO governments and the alliance has made clear that it will act only when asked by the United Nations or the Conference on Security and Coopera-

tion in Europe (CSCE).

Officials say the U.N. mission in former Yugoslavia, as well as the mission to protect the Kurds in northern Iraq in the wake of the 1991 Gulf war, had shown peacekeeping could easily involve the use of force.

NATO officials say future contingency plans for using allied forces in peacekeeping would be highly flexible but they would include the deployment of heavy equipment such as artillery and tanks, as well as plans for air cover.

The alliance is cutting its forces now that the cold war is over, reshaping them into more multinational, mobile units. Some of them have been earmarked as "rapid reaction forces," able to deploy within a few days or weeks.

NATO Secretary-General Manfred Woerner said Friday such forces would be ideal for the

## CILINTON reads Bush letter

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Bill Clinton said a note left for him in the Oval Office by former President George Bush, and was "very generous" and "very encouraging."

Outgoing presidents have traditionally left a personal letter for their successors in the Oval Office. Mr. Bush wrote a note last Wednesday and left it in an envelope on the desk. Mr. Clinton read it Friday. Asked Saturday what the note said, Mr. Clinton declined to give details.

"I think we should leave it between the two of us," he said. "It was a very generous note and a very encouraging one."

In 1989, Mr. Reagan left such a letter for Mr. Bush. On his way to California after Mr. Bush's inauguration, Mr. Reagan described that note as "just a little one telling him just to carry on and tell him in my thoughts and prayers."

## Major's footballing son sent off twice in one week

LONDON (R) — Prime Minister John Major's son is earning a reputation as one of the hard men of British soccer after being sent off twice this week. James, 18, who plays left-back, has now been dismissed four times this season and could be banned for 35 days under Football Association rules. On Sunday, James was sent off for punching an opponent in an under-18 village league match. Three days later a professional foul when playing for his school earned him another red card. "I couldn't care less if it was Prince Charles, the procedure is exactly the same for everyone," said Maurice Armstrong, an official of Huntingdonshire Football Association. "I must say I can't remember anybody ever being sent off four times in one season before," he told the London Evening Standard Friday. John Major is member of parliament for Huntingdon.

## Former Indonesian first lady sentenced to jail

MEEKER, Colorado (R) — Former Indonesian first lady Dewi Sukarno, who had pleaded guilty to cutting the face of a socialist rival, was sentenced to 60 days in jail and fined \$700. Mrs. Sukarno, 52, was accused of smashing a champagne glass in Victoria Osmena's face on Jan. 2, 1992 during a celebrity-filled dinner party at Aspen Club Lodge. Osmena, 44, is the granddaughter of former Philippines President Sergio Osmena. "I did not intend to do it. I would like to express my apology and sorrow," Mrs. Sukarno said from the witness stand. Because of the extent of pre-trial publicity, the case had been transferred to this snow-covered ranching town from glitzy Aspen, where the attack on Mrs. Osmena took place. Mrs. Sukarno, whose husband was Indonesia's first president, pleaded guilty on Dec. 3 to second-degree assault and disorderly conduct. She was scheduled to report to jail Monday.

## Japan envisions nuclear power plants on the moon

TOKYO (R) — Energy-poor Japan, forging ahead with an ambitious nuclear power development plan, is eyeing the moon as a possible site for nuclear plants. The Science and Technology Agency, a government ministry, is planning to launch a five-year project this spring to develop a concept that can change energy generated by nuclear power plants from electricity to earth news reports said Saturday. The agency unveiled the next-generation energy project, touting it as the answer to future energy needs and a way to reduce dependency on nuclear power generation on earth, the reports said. Japan, which relies on imports for about 94 per cent of its energy resources, is steadily increasing its use of nuclear power.

## Monk arrested after sex with corpse

BANGKOK (R) — A Buddhist monk has been stripped of his saffron robes and arrested after he was caught having sex with the corpse of a 40-year-old woman. Thai press reports said. The reports said the monk, Samai Panchong, 35, was arrested after being found with the corpse in a temple during the third night of the woman's funeral rites. Police told reporters they charged the monk with damaging the coffin as they could not find a law barring sex with a corpse.